

Single Issue Price \$5

# ABLE TOGETHER

JULY, 1995 Volume 2, Number 3

*an international quarterly newsletter serving gay and  
bisexual disabled and disability-aware abled men*

**PUBLISHER**  
**Steven Sklar**

**EDITOR**  
**Peter Hegedus**

**DESIGNER**  
**Michael Teger**

**EDITORIAL**  
**Jonathan Farrell**  
**Blaine Waterman**

Lavender Library, Archives  
and Cultural Exchange  
Sacramento, CA  
and  
Sacramento, CA

#9814

**P. O. Box 460053**  
**San Francisco, CA 94146 USA**  
**(415) 522 9091**



**HELP  
ABLE-TOGETHER  
GROW!!**

In response to an astute subscriber's suggestion (see **LETTERS**, pg. 6) we are publishing this issue of the A-T newsletter with outreach flyers inserted. Please give or mail these flyers to a friend who might be interested in **ABLE-TOGETHER** — or keep one in your pocket to give to someone you might meet!

**ABLE-TOGETHER** also offers courtesy listings on our Bulletin Board (pg. 49).

All we ask in return is that you help publicize A-T by keeping some of our flyers on-hand to distribute to members of your group.



*You are very welcome to this, the fourth issue of the  
ABLE-TOGETHER newsletter.*

FROM  
THE  
EDITOR

About half our readers will be receiving subscription renewal notices with their mailed copy; most of you were members of the "old" ABLE-TOGETHER, many of you going as far back even to A-T's prototype and predecessor, *Jarrod International*; you are the ones who, when we wrote to you a year ago to announce our plans for A-T's renaissance, believed in us sufficiently to send in your subscription monies upfront, thereby enabling us to publish our first issue in October, 1994; you others are the first of the "new crop" who responded with similar faith and hope - yes, and charitable donations - to our outreach between publication of the October and January, 1995 issues.

To you in the "October class" we send a heartfelt *thank you!* as we fulfill our contract with you with this issue. How did we do? Did you like the editorial material? Was it helpful? Enlightening? Did the personal contact ads pique your interest? Did you make a connection with someone? Do you feel you know more about yourself and the world you inhabit as a reader of ABLE-TOGETHER because you are a reader of A-T?

*We hope that a great many of you will want to renew your subscriptions!* As ABLE-TOGETHER makes the transition from our first to our second year, we hope you are as excited as we are by your newsletter's place in the world, and on the racks in ever more bookstores across the US; we hope you were made as proud by the extensive coverage given A-T in the recent spirituality issue of *New Mobility*; and we hope you are as heartened and excited by the signs in the ad listings that A-T is beginning to reach, and learn from a new, younger generation of readers.

In this summer issue Jonathan Farrell reflects on *fear* and arrives at a conclusion with interesting implications for how we are both in our interpersonal relationships and politically. Alden Harris tells us of his pain when he meets with rejection from physically disabled folks and of how he would like all of us to be when we meet him and other men with a mental or psychological challenge. With exquisite timing David Thompson's intricate, two-part article gives us a redemptive view of a similar terrain; and your letters continue both to be a delight, when we hear that the personal contact ads have worked for you, and to give enrichment to the ongoing discussion, from which we all learn so much about ourselves, concerning the attraction experienced by abled men for disabled men.

Jonathan Farrell and Blaine Waterman appear on A-T's masthead for the first time this issue; A-T's cohesion and ability to make operational and policy judgments is vastly strengthened by Blaine's and Jonathan's presence. As we enter our second year of publication, and at graduation time of the October class, we feel A-T has definitely *arrived* and has earned respect in the communities we serve. So we drop the "*new*" from "the *new* ABLE-TOGETHER" and look forward with great excitement to what the future holds.

G  
R  
A  
D  
U  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N



# ABLE-TOGETHER

A-T  
may  
print  
extracts  
from  
letters  
received  
unless  
specifically  
asked  
not to;  
writers  
will be  
identified  
by their  
initials,  
city and  
state,  
unless  
we are  
advised  
to the  
contrary.

- I cannot tell you how disappointed I am that you made the decision to include convicts in your list of subscribers...If you think that one convict is a full subscriber, consider the fact that the reality is 18 put in a dollar and Brian signed the money order. That one copy will be passed around, xeroxed over and over...As for the disclaimer you have printed it will do only a single thing - cover you legally when something awful happens...In this world there are so many lonely gullible people...I can put an actual face to one of those stories...[of] a huge scam...To all that may consider that what I've written is wrong, please be careful, and most critical of any and all contact you might have with anyone in prison...I send my very best wishes to all and to your continued success but must ask that you immediately remove my ad and my name from any database or mailing list A-T may have. Also please cancel my subscription to A-T.

A Former A-T Subscriber

A-T has sent the following reply:

*We greatly appreciate your feedback, and very much regret losing you. So far, yours has been the only letter received in response to our decision to accept full-year subscriptions from men in prison; we will, with some sadness, remove your name from our database. This means that we shall not be able to tell you if we hear in similar vein from other subscribers, nor will we be in a position to let you know if we receive a reply from Brian to what you say regarding his subscription. Although we accept your decision we hope very much that you may return to A-T at some future date.*

- Your newsletter is great, just what I was looking for. The calendar is a great idea, I will be looking for it ...

K. S., Dalton, GA

*Thanks, we're glad you think the calendar is a great idea - would you like to put yourself forward for consideration as one of the "months"? Any interested reader, disabled or abled, is invited to send us a cute snapshot of yourself to get things rolling. The project's maturity time will be sometime after we have twelve such on file ...*

- Thanks for the April issue...I am meeting a lot of nice new pen pals. I'm glad I joined...I look forward to the next issue. Met a great A-T guy in Hawaii last month!

R. H., San Francisco, CA



## LETTERS

- Just a short note to let you know that I am having a wonderful time visiting [P.W.]...thanks to...ABLE-TOGETHER! A-T sure works international miracles!

R. R. & P. W. in Europe

*Guys, thanks so much for writing and for your willingness to share your news of your excitement - and of A-T's long-distance miracle-working abilities - with us and other readers.*

- I recently found a wonderful article in *New Mobility* [mentioning] your newsletter and I'm very anxious to be in touch with such a positive and straightforward organization. I have known since childhood that I am attracted to men who have some physical difference and I have long struggled to understand this... I examined as carefully as I could what might be behind this attraction - and whether I had fallen into fantasy and fetish which distanced and dehumanized both myself and others. That for me would be the ultimate guilt - and a burden I would not wish to carry...Over the years...I have been encouraged by some of my experiences to believe that my attraction to these men...is an aspect of love and is life-affirming and hopeful. One thing that has been helpful in convincing me of this is that with both abled and disabled men it is *the person inside* that I care for. [For me] whether or not a relationship is sexual is secondary to loving and being loved by the person who inhabits the body. I recently encountered a monograph by Melody B. Davis on the photographs of George Dureau. You are probably familiar with Dureau's work which often (though not always) has men with physical disabilities as subjects. In [a quote with which I resonate] Davis says *{the subject's} self-possession and Dureau's natural regard for him - neither denying nor emphasizing his form - causes us to reflect upon ourselves ...*

H. McM., Boston, MA

*Many thanks for your valuable and generous contribution to the debate started by a correspondent in the April '95 issue of A-T; it seems to us a very beautiful gift that you have to give to your relationship partner - the gift of to be seen and cared for by you without denial or emphasis. And also very beautiful is the impact he has on you: facilitating your self-knowing. And welcome to A-T!*

- Friends had shown me a copy of the newsletter and I was definitely impressed. But what really got me sold was the [promotional] flyer...The problem with most newsletters of a similar nature was that they were either too out there with their focus or came off like they were apologizing for stating what their members wanted. The flyer got it just right. Nobody should have to make apologies for who



they are or what they want...when you're told you don't fit into the mainstream of sexual activity, you start believing it. You also start believing that anyone who is willing to provide you with a sex life is a creature from another planet. As one fellow Martian looking for others of my ilk, I hope that ABLE-TOGETHER will make that search a whole lot easier. So, I'm looking forward to a stuffed mailbox and a 'phone ringing off the hook.

M. V., Brooklyn, NY

*Welcome to planet A-T, and thank you for the feedback. Your proposed analysis of the origin of feelings of suspicion in response to sexual attraction is a useful and stimulating contribution to the debate started by a correspondent in A-T's April '95 issue.*

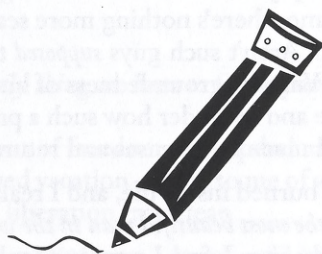
- I appreciate all of the welcoming comments that I have received from you all [at ABLE-TOGETHER], and would like to thank you. I also have some concerns with how we, as a group, can be more serving to our minority of men within our gay community. I have found in my experience as an out gay man with a disability that we tend to fear one another; there are so many misconceptions about men with disabilities that we tend to fear that everyone will mold us into one stereotype that the able-bodied community may have about *everyone with a disability*. I have been busy spreading our existence to my local gay friends because word of mouth advertising is the only way that the curious can learn about us. I have been spreading the news on America Online and a lot of curious minds have seemed very interested in what ABLE-TOGETHER has to offer. I have met many men that are gay and disabled; some already have soulmates but others are in need of friends and that one close companion. I myself am one of these men and I feel that A-T has the potential to be a wild-fire of great friendships as well as relationships. Since I am a traveling athlete, spending most of my summers on the highways of this country, I feel compelled to go out on off nights in these different cities and let the gay men of America know that we are out there and that we can be great lovers and companions. A way that I feel that we can all do our part is, with each issue that we receive, if [you at ABLE-TOGETHER] could send maybe 5 or 10 flyers to each of the subscribers. Then we could take it upon ourselves to spread the wealth of an undiscovered abundance of wonderful men in the gay community [and work to correct it wherever we have previously] not been noticed or well received.

R. S., Carbondale, IL

*Thank you for your wonderful letter. Your suggestion to send flyers out with each issue to encourage "pyramid" outreach has certainly fired us up: we have devised a new, double-sided, single-sheet flyer and are mailing two copies with this issue. There are more available upon request to those who like to pass them around both for the cause and as an enjoyable and rewarding way to meet guys. Thank you for being so out there for us.*



# EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS



## THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MAN IN THE WORLD

by Peter Hegedus

I was walking out of the tailor's on Castro Street and saw, a little way down the street, a man in a wheelchair. I did not recognize him as someone I know or have seen before, and my excitement mounted as I drew nearer. He was *very* goodlooking. *Aha*, I thought: *my chance to do A-T's work - and who knows what else!* As I looked down to locate the ABLE-TOGETHER flyer in whichever pocket it was in that day, the man vanished. I passed a Chinese restaurant, looking into the huge glass doors almost automatically and - there he was, getting himself set up to use the payphone. I stopped as my thoughts argued with each other: *how can you be so weird as to go into the restaurant and disturb him as he's making a call fought with he's there needing to be flyered and I'm here with a flyer.* He stopped being busy with the payphone, and flyering won. I went in.

He was quite spectacular. As I approached I noticed he was wearing - was it an Australian bushwhacker's hat? - or was it an Indiana Jones hat? The rest of his clothes were immaculately *ensuite* with the image of the Colonial Adventurer. His legs, very slightly too long and rangy for the sleek, black chair, were slightly splayed into a masculine, rakish angle. His sleeves were rolled back over deliciously brown forearms covered with deliciously black forearm-hair. A just-perfect amount of black stubble covered the lower part of his face and highlighted a spidery looking scar on his upper lip. *Perhaps from the accident* I mused as I arrived at his side.

*Are you a gay or bisexual man with a disability?* I ventured the rehearsed "pitch" with all the ingenuous charm I could muster. *No*, he said, *I don't fall into that category; I do have a disability, but I'm not gay or bisexual.* I was dumbfounded. Surely the Gods were mocking me and I railed against them - was this not Castro Street? - was not everyone around us, were not even the very *stones* gay? *Why do you ask?* He continued. I squatted down so that my eyes were at a level slightly below his. *I edit a newsletter for gay and bisexual disabled, and disabled-aware abled men; it has articles and personal contact ads.* He broke into a big smile, betraying a stunning set of white teeth and healthy-looking gums. He looked straight at and into me, unfolded his right arm, swung it around and offered me his hand, saying *my name's M.*



As I introduced myself to him I was reeling inwardly with the messages I was receiving; I felt he had seen who I am and had accepted, more, even *liked* what he saw; I felt he was saying *it's ok for you to like me and to want to touch me, and I'm glad to find out about you, and glad on behalf of someone like me who might want to touch you.* I admit it, I was unnerved. Sometimes there's nothing more scary than the simple, open acceptance of a straight man. Aren't such guys *supposed* to glare and mutter surly epithets in such situations? With the groundedness of hindsight I wish I had told him what was going on for me and I wonder how such a prolonged encounter might have played out. As it was, I made my excuses and returned to the street.

As I walked on, M's smile still burned inside me, and I realized with a sense of shock that I had just encountered *the most beautiful man in the world.* I think I know what elevated him from *very goodlooking*; I feel I now suddenly for the first time understand and appreciate why my friend Ron always used to talk about whomever he had just met as *the most beautiful man in the world*; I feel ashamed of how I used to nitpick, saying *they can't all be the most beautiful, and most of them seem merely handsome to me.* What made M the most beautiful man in the world to me was not his gifts of his handshake and smile but was the far more precious gifts betokened by them; by M's seeing, accepting and liking me I realize now I felt, and was truly *loved* by him in that moment. Wow!!!

*Peter Hegedus, who is abled, is a graduate student and part-time editor living in San Francisco.*





## ANOTHER CALL FROM THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

by Jonathan Farrell

*"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." - F.D.R.*

Summer's celebrations of freedom - Independence Day, Stonewall/Pride, and, for the worker, a well-deserved vacation - speak to me of what I sense to be the core element in the spirit of freedom: liberation from fear.

Simple fear can take many forms - eg. of a wild animal - and is an ordinary part of life; but the specific kind of fear I have it in mind to feel free from is the kind that can lead to hatred, violence and oppression. My present understanding of these things is that results of such extremity and severity often stem from barely-noticeable beginnings in very simple fears residing deep within the self of persons.

Any fear big or small tests our sense of security; when there is an inability to transcend fear this can become an obstacle to growth and development. This is true not only for the individual but also collectively of a community or nation. For instance, if there were more security residing within people's sense of self rather than in their weapons, locks on their doors and increased police squads, I wonder if our society might be correspondingly less inclined to exhibit violence and hatred; I wonder how many times people who work in the criminal justice system, ask themselves *if only there had been someone who could have reached this person and helped him to feel more secure in himself before it was too late!*

The instance presently foremost in my mind of mass horror apparently originally stemming from this kind of deep personal fear and insecurity is the recent tragedy at the Federal Building in Oklahoma. As I write, the Oklahoma City bombing is still under investigation and there are many questions still unanswered; yet what has stood out for me in the initial release of information about the incident is that this (I quote) "cowardly act of violence" has its roots in human fear. Human fear perverted into an organized paranoia toward the government and turned against society itself.

In the face of such paranoia and horror, my reason recedes to the far horizon and I become paranoid. If the reports are all correct and the facts clear about an individual or group forming a "militia" then could that mean the shadows of Nazism still linger in the modern Midwest? How ironic that, in this commemorative year of the liberation of Europe from the destruction of World War II in 1945, our country has to face a tragedy that could signify a growing menace of fear and violence that seems to some to have a link to Nazism.

Nazism is a word thrown around quite a bit and (while I admit I am not an expert on the subject) I feel I certainly do need to ponder the concepts unleashed, especially since I am a gay man and a person with a disability; for I remember the frightening fact that, when Nazism was in the ascendant, among the first groups to suffer as the concentration camps were being established were the disabled and the homosexuals. In the 1930s Germany was in the midst of an economic depression and the sense of self of



an entire nation was filled with fear and insecurity. Despair was everywhere. At the same time as intellectuals, artists and homosexual people flocked to the big city of Berlin, the "gay" place to be in, as the cabarets filled with music and dancing, the Nazi party was gaining influence and eventually power over the people.

How could a nation that had contributed so much to western culture and intellect sink to the inhumane platform of the Nazi party? How were human enlightenment, reason and critical-thinking abilities suddenly perverted as Germany was under the enchantment of a regime that offered an easy solution to its problems of unemployment, poverty and political instability? If it really can be the case that such atrocious, anti-human tyranny has its first, barely-noticeable germs of origin in ordinary human fear residing deep within the self of persons, then who amongst us might not develop into the next McVeigh - or the next Hitler? To think that within each of us is the germ of a tyrant with the potential, if nurtured, for inflicting misery as yet untold! We may hope that such an evil will never exist again, but we cannot know that it will not if we believe the seed of evil to lie in us all in our capacity for ordinary human fear.

Because love displaces fear, I see moving closer toward a genuine sense of true love of self and other as the path to transcending fear and obviating the damage that can result from it. It is often said that most of the world's ills come from a lack of love, also that our tolerance for loving and understanding others can be no stronger than our ability to understand and love *ourselves*. Taking time to try to be more aware of what's going on for ourselves in relation to others and for others in relation to ourselves, and so trying to work out problems, may be the best method we have to promote goodness in our community and to build *understanding* out of our simple human fears.

I believe the crucial formula is *striving to better understand others while understanding ourselves*. When I, rightly, demand justice from society with a hey! don't use *that parking spot unless you have a blue sticker!* or perhaps with my involvement in a domestic partners' rights campaign, I want *also* to demand justice *from myself* by maintaining my awareness that it is not, at bottom, about parking spaces and "rights" that I am concerned, but about my fears *that I may not be lovable*. If I can transcend my internal fears, self-hatred and insecurity *then* can I truly and effectively seek peace and justice.

It is my belief that the way to do this is for me to *stay in touch with* my fears, to *name* them, preferably to *verbalize* them in the presence of relevant persons. For instance, when the subject is blue-zone parking spaces I want to keep in mind my fear, as a disabled man, of being edited out of people's conscious awareness, and so "made to be dead"; when the subject is accessibility I want to keep my awareness of my fear that if I cannot go where you go I become less like you and liable to be less liked by you. And if I can stay in touch with my fears and verbalize them in this way, then maybe the person I am in dialogue with will get in touch with *his* fears in relation to me, for instance that he is quite scared of how similar we might be, and of other people noticing this and liking *him* less by association. It is my belief that the verbalization of such fears is healthy, their repression troublesome and, yes, even dangerous...

As I see it the struggle for freedom is never over and freedom's maintainance is our continuing responsibility. So is it possible that, just as the German people in the 1930s embraced an illusory promise of freedom from unemployment, poverty and political instability, I too might in the same way find a false security in the Americans With



Disabilities Act or in fighting for Domestic Partnership ordinances - or in ABLE-TOGETHER? I want to counter this possibility: so even when the rainbow flags go up and the pink triangles are placed around, I, as a member of our evolving and growing community within nation within world, want for myself to keep growing and evolving *in myself*. I do not fear my fear - and my experience is that if I maintain my vigilance over it and my understanding of it, and if I let it out, then the effect on the quality of my life will be much to my liking: less anger, divisiveness, hatred - and more understanding, coming together and love.

*Jonathan Farrell, who has CP, is a writer-journalist living in San Francisco.*



## A PLEA FOR COMPASSION

*by Alden Harris*

I am a human being. I have feelings just like you. I hurt just like you. I laugh just like you. I feel the pain of societal condemnation and rejection just like you. I cry tears of sorrow and joy just like you. I have the same desires and loneliness that you feel. I also can love just like you. For we *all* are human beings - precious creations of God. The main difference between myself (and others like me) and the physically challenged is that my challenge is living with a *mental disorder*.

My disability is not signified visually as, for instance, by a crutch, a brace or a wheelchair. But my pain at not being able to do the same things as "normal" people is just as hurtful and frustrating as I imagine the pain of those with physical limitations to be. I too *wish I could do things* others seem to take their ability to do for granted. And I feel I have a burden over and above that of someone with a manifest physical limitation in that I face the duty of *divulging* my disability to those I meet and wish to form a relationship with - that is, if I want to have an honest relationship that will last for any length of time.

While many people with a mental, or psychological disability become very good at concealing it from the world at large, I know I cannot, nor would I want to hide it from the ones with whom I am, or want to be intimate - those I love. But, when I do explain myself, my experience is that I can then become caught in the 'no man's land' of acceptability: for someone (whether disabled or abled) wanting to form a relationship with a person with a disability, I can be *not disabled enough*; and for those who do not desire a relationship with a person with a limitation I am *too limited*. Now there's a 'catch 22', if you will!

Many people, irrespective of (dis)ability, seem to be under the impression that people with mental disorders are ignorant, stupid, dysfunctional, retarded or that at any moment they will go off on some psychotic rampage. This is *not necessarily* more the case with us



than with those who are not challenged in this way. To begin with, the spectrum of psychological and mental disabilities is just as infinite, and just as overlapping with "normalcy" as is the spectrum of physical disabilities. And then, in the same way that a physically disabled person might make regular use of cane or wheelchair, so too are there the medications that control fits of depression, anxiety or panic; these are the "crutches" used by some of us to closer approximate the very human desire of "normal" living and fitting in - thereby to be more able to express and articulate who we are as we prefer.

I happen to carry a diagnosis of *Attention Deficit Disorder*. *I have a hard time mentally focusing*. I do not respond favorably to medications, because (so I am told) I was diagnosed at a relatively late stage in my life. Because I cannot control when, where or for how long my symptoms will manifest, I have been unable to maintain a regular career. Not that I didn't try or want to. I desperately did. Before my diagnosis, not knowing why I was like I was and believing that maybe greater flexibility of hours and duties was the key, I tried owning my own business - but it didn't change anything. Previously I had been in middle and upper level management. But there are only so many excuses a boss will accept for missing appointments, losing office or store keys, forgetting how to do things I was trained in and knowledgeable of for many months or forgetting I had a job altogether until it's too late in the day to call in.

Even if the symptoms do not directly affect the ability to do the work, the stigma attached to those diagnosed with a mental disorder makes it highly risky to divulge this information in the pre-employment interviews - that is if one has a fondness for earning money to eat and have a roof over his head.

It would never occur to most of those who meet me on the street, or in the business arena, that I have a severe challenge that limits my ability to maintain employment. *You're so smart and creative, I would never have imagined!* I hear time and time again. But then their attitude and demeanor instantly changes: they begin to talk slower or louder or to use elementary verbiage - like a person in a foreign country who thinks if he talks louder or slower the person he's speaking to will somehow get to understand english, or like the individual who screams on meeting an older person, automatically assuming deafness.

I feel hurt on these occasions, just as I imagine the older person and the foreign-language speaker to be - and just like, as I imagine, the person with a manifest physical challenge when meeting someone who seems to think he can't do anything for himself or that he is made out of fragile glass. It hurts only a very little less if I tell myself on these occasions that the person is "uninformed" or has "misconceptions".

I must admit I take this uninformed misconceiving really hard when I experience it from individuals who live with physical challenges in their life. I feel you at least should know the pain and frustrations of limitation, that you at least, because you will have known rejection, should be unwilling to condemn *quite so fast*. But, sadly, such has more than a few times been my experience, and on these occasions I have felt discarded and *invalidated* by the person, to the point where I have wondered whether he might perhaps think I don't feel the pain he feels - or even that, for some ungodly reason, I *choose* to have my disability.



I can't speak for all with mental, or psychological challenges, but this is how *I* feel about being such a person: in case it occurs to anyone to feel people like me should count our blessings that we aren't physically disabled, I can say that it has many times occurred to me to wish my disability *were* physical, in the belief that at least then would I be *somewhat accepted and allowed to have my limitations*.

So my message to all my brothers - and especially you who are *without* a psychological, or mental challenge - is this: my feelings of sorrow, depression, loneliness, frustration, grief and pain run deep and hurt me, perhaps in much the same way as these feelings do in you - and in much the same way as the feelings of love, compassion, happiness, acceptance and togetherness can lift the spirits of us all and make our lives feel wonderful. For all these feelings are from the inside. They all affect our hearts in some way. No matter what our *biopsychospiritual* limitations may be, are we not all precious children of God, deserving all of the wonderful feelings and manifestations of each other's acceptance and love?

My hopes are these: that, if or when it happens that you encounter someone with a mental disorder, you may remember above all that *I am as human as you*; that you may not dismiss me quite as quickly as you might have before reading this, but that you will *take just a little longer to feel into my humanity*; and that you may thereby find yourself more able to understand and accept how, and who I am - just as you desire and deserve from me the respect, acceptance and understanding of your limitations, and of who you are, which I strive to give you. And - perhaps - who knows? - *we too* may discover a great and wonderful love to share!

*The Rev. Alden Harris, who is a person with Attention Deficit Disorder and a certified counselor, lives in Atlanta, GA.*



[Editor's note: 'mental disorder' is the standardized term of the American Medical Association's Diagnostic Manual and is used inclusively to embrace the continuum of mental and psychological conditions for which help may be sought.]



# ON LOOKING FOR, AND FINDING ACCEPTANCE IN A PICTURE-PERFECT WORLD

by David Thompson

## I

I know that, for myself as a disabled gay man, *I really want to feel fully accepted in the gay "community"*. What can stop me feeling this way is what I see as the gay community's perseveration on *overt perfection* - and the fact that my disabilities are amongst the many which are not out in the open, not observable through at-a-glance evaluation. These include, to name a few categories, epilepsy, head injury, and mental/psychological challenges. I wonder how many of us in this situation, wanting the acceptance of those around us, experience the impulse to keep our disabilities quiet, secret - fearful of rejection?

It makes sense that those of us with multiple acceptability "strikes" against us should be inclined to *keep something in the closet*. One of the people for whom I do case management (I am a *disgaybled* social worker - please, no hissing!) has said that he wishes he could be more "out" at work, but isn't: is this maybe due to "office politics" - or does he maybe sense from co-workers that the fact of his physical disability is already quite enough for them to cope with? I wonder how many of us GBWDs (gay/bi with disabilities) experience some version of his dilemma: already contending with rejection (or the fear of it) from the purely physical standpoint, are we understandably leery of including our sexual orientation into our struggle for acceptance by a conformist world?

I suspect all societal groups work on the principle of *let's pretend we're all perfect*. Certainly my own past experience is full of rejection from amongst *my own gay community*; and each time it is just as painful as before. And in the last ten years there's been a new twist to the uphill battle of outing my disabledness: my experience as a gay person with a not-overtly-visible disability is that, if I tell someone I am disabled, his immediate thought is *oh, he has AIDS* and a sickening patronal attitude comes forth. When I find I want to "prove" my disability is not "catching" I get how terrible it must be for PWAs, and feel guilty and disloyal to them. I suppose that, as far as I can, I too try to pretend I have no limitations. Hah! How many times have I had to stop dancing because my hips hurt so badly I knew I wouldn't be able to walk the next day if I continued? How many times have I refused a beer or a drink because I take anti-seizure medicine?

It is unfortunate that the classic Greek ideal of beauty and perfection still seems to grip the vast majority of gay men as well as society in general. At least Socrates and Plato knew this to be an *idea* - by definition to be aspired to and not realizable in the concrete world. I say unfortunate - despite the fact that a beautiful man is very pleasant to view - because in my opinion emphasis on *picture-perfection* blinds one to the overall wholistic of the *person*.

My case in point: I am 44 (*one strike for age*), 5'4" (*too short*), 145 pounds and unable to participate in much physical exercise (*too soft*), don't drink (*party-poopers*), drive a 1980 Datsun (*poor*), an epileptic with Paget's disease (*disabled too*) and must walk with a cane



(don't call attention to yourself). That's the not-perfect picture. What about the me *I know I am* - veteran of Stonewall, the Sorbonne riots, educated in England and Russia, voracious reader, music lover, dancer, confidant, sensual lover, thinker, storyteller, experimental chef, animal lover? These are parts of the whole me that can't be seen immediately, that can't be experienced in one glance in, for instance, the stereotypical gay setting. And these are the parts I most want to get across and be seen, appreciated - yes, and loved for.

I see a visually-obsessed society as liable to kid itself into cheating me out of being acceptable for *who I am*. I find I can't take any more of the *I know a guy in a wheelchair - he's so cool* condescension. It doesn't make *me* feel good to see more disability groupies mooning around beautiful athletic men in sexy, hi-tech wheelchairs. My response to this groupie-ing is to feel *depersonalized* - like the most I can hope for is to be the latest token acquaintance, party enhancer, notch on someone's guilt-post or mercy fuck. I get angry when I think my disability may carry these kinds of implications in the minds of the more abled folk I meet. Can't disability be free of such implications? Can't I be "just" disabled - and *seen for who I am*? When I meet an abled guy I guess it's the anticipation of such feelings of *one-down-ness* that have me responding by wanting to complete his education in disabilities, disability rights, culture and consciousness. I don't know about y'all, but being an educator can get downright tiresome; so I've made up small info-sheets I pass out to people when they repeatedly ask about my epilepsy and/or Paget's disease. Hey, so far it's working!

Pure acceptance freely given is so hard to find. I wonder about the GBWD who doesn't have the luxury of a mutually supportive and accepting lover relationship? What then? Friends? Family? Personal Attendant? Who is there to *be there* for the overwhelming sexual desire, to hear the feelings of loneliness, the longings for a lover or social contacts, the dark depressions that can accompany the raging against the disability? Or the mundane concerns of rent, Social Security checks, PASS plans, utility payments? Counselors, case managers, case workers, and human service agencies may be there, and yet ...

## II

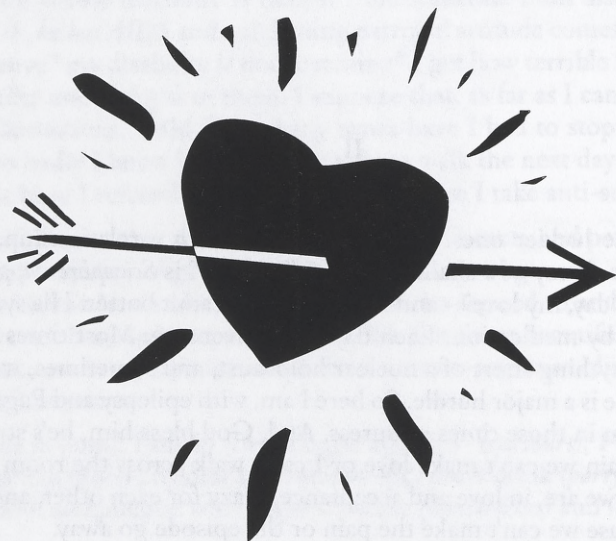
I am one of the luckier ones. I am twelve years into a relationship. My "main squeeze", Joey, has a doozy of a challenge; his "diagnosis" is *Scizophrenia, paranoid type* - well who are we today, my love? - and I love him to peanut butter. His symptoms are "controlled" (hah!) by medication. Each day is an adventure. Most times he's able to cope with almost anything short of a nuclear holocaust, and sometimes, well... just to pour milk into coffee is a major hurdle. So here I am, with epilepsy and Paget's Disease, being strong for him in those times of duress. And, God bless him, he's strong for me when I'm in such pain we can't make love or I can't walk across the room to kiss him goodnight. So here we are, in love and acceptance, crazy for each other, and hurting at the same time because we can't make the pain or the episode go away.



One day in May I had to call the Mental Health Deputies to come and escort Joey to the psychiatric emergency services ward - *again*. Yours truly had to sign the temporary commitment papers. That's where the pain is, the hurt, the inevitable frustration of not knowing when he'll be stable enough to come home to work in the garden or to share a hot bubble bath or for us to hold each other during those "butt-busting" Texas thunder storms (we like to make love during thunder storms). My friends ask me how I do it. How do I deal with his bizarre behavior; how do I really even know he's "all there". My answer? *I love him from the very deepest recesses of my soul*; I have looked into the mad face of love and have seen his eyes; I have held and rocked him when an episode was coming on and we couldn't stop it.

Think not that this relationship is one-sided. Heaven forfend. When I have had major seizures at the local mall he's been there holding back the morbid curiosity-seekers and cradling my head to keep me from pounding my skull. He was there for me when the doctors gave me the diagnosis of Paget's and I collapsed into his arms, hysterical, crying, remembering the insufferable pain my grandfather went through with his Paget's. Detractors often question our relationship. After all, don't you think that a person with a physical disability and a person with a "mental health issue" *don't* belong together? That in actuality we should, in the immortal words from *West Side Story*, "stick to [our] own kind"? *No!* Never before in my life have I experienced the thrill of such an emotional roller-coaster and such ecstatic love.

But, you may ask, how do I hold on? How do I survive the days of separation? I am a member of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. I know that, when I hurt, there is a safe place to go. The support net is my AA meetings. My friends in AA have told me and proven to me





that when I'm hurting, angry, lonely, mortified, exhausted, - that all I have to do is fall back into their arms. They are there to "see" me through the crises. Matter of fact, two members were with me when my love was physically removed in a "white jacket" from our seventh anniversary party. And then there are those times when I'm so utterly bone-tired from the manic energies permeating our home that I have to take time away. Fortunately I do have those private areas, places where I can just breathe and be. Joey says he knows, and I believe he knows and accepts why I have to "take five" occasionally. And I am glad that then he can have his time also, that necessary private time when a person must re-group, de-brief, sleep, or read with no distractions.

But, oh, the ache of those other, forced separations! Being a licensed social worker and a Russian Orthodox priest, I have access to many areas in the local state hospital denied to most. I know I'll see him at least three times a week in the patient day room, under supervision of course. I know that he'll be heavily medicated and hard to comprehend. Five years ago during one of Joey's episodes I visited him at the state hospital after supper. It was around 6.30 pm. We had not touched nor kissed in about three weeks. You could spread our "horniness" with a putty knife. With permission, of course, Joey and I went for a stroll around the grounds. The sun was just setting as we rounded a corner. His arms went around me, pulled me close, and we kissed. Lord, did we kiss! Clothes went flying, bodies pressed into each other, and we made love right there behind the acute ward, accompanied by the sounds of insanity. Hastily we dressed and continued our after-passion sojourn. You see, there are ways around "rules and regulations"!

I've had my nose broken once while assisting in a take-down, along with various other bruises, sprains, contusions. And the sight of Joey crying, begging forgiveness, while in ten-point restraints haunts my nightmares. These hurts I accept gladly. I am a man who loves another man. We both have disabilities. We live and love doing our best to be the lover each desires. In this picture-perfect world we have found acceptance with each other. Ours is a different way of loving. Ours is the love of chaos, the anarchy of passion, the hidden realms of darkness, the sweet mornings of silence, the joy of coming home, and the bitter beginnings of Tardive's Dyskinesia.

*My love is a mad citizen of passion and anguish; He is my Love.*

*David Thompson is a disgybled social worker living in Austin, Texas.*



# GUIDE TO A-T CONTACT AD LISTINGS

How to reply to a coded ad: put your letter in an envelope, seal it, and put the A-T code # of the advertiser you are replying to in the top right corner of the envelope; put this envelope, together with the correct reimbursement for forwarding, please, (see below), in another envelope, seal, address to A-T and mail! You may respond to as many coded ads as you wish, and put all the numbered envelopes in one larger envelope to mail to us.

We believe the best kind of ad is the one that gives the reader the clearest picture of who you are. We therefore encourage ad length (but reserve the right to edit) and accurate statements of personal statistics such as age and weight. You should bear in mind that our subscribers are likely to want to know whether you are disabled or abled, so please include this information, and try to be as detailed as you can about yourself and your way of being and presentation in the world, because it very greatly helps both you and potential responders if they can gain a reasonable picture you from the ad. *We encourage changes and updates to ads!*

Over ly sexually explicit or fetishistic material is edited out of personal contact ads submitted to ABLE-TOGETHER. This is because many of our subscribers are offended by such material, *and* our circulation includes, eg. ILCs, where a copy may be kept for reference. We feel this additional source of potential new members is important so *if you are dissatisfied with this policy, we will cancel your subscription.*

ABLE-TOGETHER does not profit from forwarding replies to coded contact ads, but we do ask that you send us full reimbursement for our postage costs in forwarding your reply to the advertiser:

- mostly, for US responses to US advertisers, this will be a 32¢ stamp, *but please note that heavier items cost more to send, and when in doubt, please check at the post office;*
- for overseas responders who do not have US stamps and wish to send a \$1 bill, this will cover *three* replies;

Remittance of forwarding costs may be made to ABLE-TOGETHER in valid US postage stamps, in currency, or by check or money order. All payments are sent to us at sender's risk. ABLE-TOGETHER does not accept responsibility for materials sent to us to be forwarded, and we reserve the right to destroy materials not accompanied by adequate reimbursement for forwarding costs.



**PERSONAL CONTACTS INITIATED THROUGH ABLE-TOGETHER CONTACT AD LISTINGS ARE DONE SO ENTIRELY AT THE RISK AND ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO BE DOING, AND WITH THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE DOING IT WITH. IF YOU DECIDE TO BE SEXUAL WITH SOMEONE YOU ARE VERY STRONGLY URGED FIRST TO CALL YOUR LOCAL AIDS/STD HOTLINE FOR ADVICE.**

**ADS**

**AK - CA**

**SEEKING AN AMPUTEE WHO LIKES OLDER MEN.** I'm 72, 5'7", 140 #. Some say I am loving, sexy, gentle and mature. I think of myself as healthy, independent, and totally out as a gay man. No macho athlete, but I swim, hike and bike a bit. Retired, my interests now lie in volunteering, classical music, science and agnostic religion. I am relationship-oriented and have deep roots in Alaska. Would love to meet someone here or who might want to relocate. But I'm equally happy to travel to meet you. I hope you might think I'm an interesting person, perhaps even a 'nice catch', and I'd love to hear from you! *Fred Hillman, 1685 Stanton Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508-5034.*

**ALASKA.** Quiet, responsible, Christian, abled GWM seeks soul mate to explore love, life and spirituality. The simple pleasures of life, like gardening, being outside, reading, sex, cuddling and music, make me happy. I work as a librarian and lead a fairly orderly and frugal life, but one that includes lots of creativity and non-destructive spontaneity. My high energy level and childlike, joyous outlook allow me to brighten the lives of others and to make a positive difference in the world. Being an Aquarian, I prefer to let go and simply enjoy what life brings to me and not to form detailed opinions on every little aspect of life. I am 33, have soft brown hair (balding), bright blue eyes, beard, weigh 170 lbs and stand 5'11". If you are a non-smoker who likes music, fantasy novels, growing things, and life, let's talk. *Tracy Swaim, POB 210071, Auke Bay, AK 99821-0071. E-mail: tracys@muskox.alaska.edu*

**ARIZONA.** GWM 37, 5'8", 220lbs, disabled with cerebral palsy, looking for friendship first, then maybe more later. Prefer you to be in age range 44-64. I will answer all who write. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #710.*

**ORANGE COUNTY, CA.** Hi, I'm 41, 5'7", 190# Bi male. I enjoy Skin & Scuba Diving, Cycling, Tennis, Photography and Astronomy among other activities. I have a slight physical inconvenience from having contracted Polio in my left leg and hip as a child, but it hasn't slowed me down much. I would like to meet other Bi males, Gays or Bi couples, who are physically able or inconvenienced. It is my hope to meet others who share some of the activities noted - and who would also enjoy (with respect to our feelings and desires) the gentle warmth that comes to those who experience the joy, pleasures and eroticism of giving as well as receiving pleasure to fulfillment. Please enclose a photo, and preferably your phone number. Hopefully a friend, Sal. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #520.*



ADS

CA

**SAN DIEGO AREA.** Shy GWM, post-polio with leg brace, younger looking 40's, likes nude fun and SM/BD games indoors and out. Not into the bar scene - enjoy quiet evenings at home, dinner out, travel, etc. Interested in meeting guys able or disabled for friendship, pen pals, safe sex, etc. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #137.*

**SAN FRANCISCO.** Hi! I'm JJ, a GWM, 46, 5'7", 140lbs, HIV negative, with a neuromuscular disorder. Use cane much of the time, but work out in the gym and at home. Enjoy music from classical to rock, good food and wine, X-rated videos, safe sex. Would love to meet others in the Bay Area for friendship and companionship. Possible LTR if you're GWM, 40-55, nonfat, HIV negative. Hairy a plus. Penpals welcomed. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #521.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Gay blind man with an eye for beauty seeks friend for fun and honest relationship. Will take him sight unseen. Sensitive and fun please reply, San Diego area. *Kevin Collin, POB 3357, San Diego, CA 92163-3357.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Attractive GWM, 5'9", green eyes, chestnut-brown hair, with goatee, 165 pounds. My physical challenge is cerebral palsy affecting my legs. This challenge does not stop me from staying active. I ride a mountain bike around Golden Gate Park regularly. I exercise routinely and stay in good shape. I enjoy the arts and humanities and philosophy was my major in college. I work at a corporate job part-time while pursuing a career in writing. I aspire to become a literary artist, by completing a novel and having it published soon. Please write to 1550 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122.

**CALIFORNIA. YO:** An early-retired professional, non-mainstream, dominant, Mediterranean, of intellectual and sentimental depth, searching internationally for mature companion of substance. I aspire to a synergistic and practical (not idealistic) union based on playfulness, direct communication, comprehension, appreciation, and romantic or platonic love. I've been called witty, earthy, compassionate, artistic, bohemian, outspoken, and a perennial quester of truth and quality. **TU:** Perhaps disabled, elderly, unaffectedly effeminate, chronically ill, physically unfit, a curmudgeon, or in any other way "unmarketable". **SI:** Non-conformity, liberalness, awareness, non-materialism, high-mindedness, robust fun, authenticity, turbulent sex, refinement, softness/sensitivity, East Coasters, Europeans, Cubans, and Japanese. **NO:** Euphemisms, enneagram number threes, conspicuous political correctness, hypermasculinity, emotional shallowness, mindlessness, addictions to busyness, tobacco, or perfume. **INTERESES:** Overnight motor trips, dry climates, substantial relationships, disclosing conversation, female friends, orchids, massage, yesteryear's theater and films, practical psychology (e.g. the enneagram), fine eateries, classic jazz, inner growth, correspondence via cassette tape, erotica, elders,



ADS

CA

new experiences, literary modern classics, the blues, estate sales, teratology, animals (except house cats), word games, sallying. CAUSAS: Advocacy for prisoners, PWAs, and consumers, Environmental detox. LIMITACIONES: Due to sleep apnea, multiple chemical sensitivities, and intractable upper-back pain, I socialize in the slow lane (occasionally in the S. Francisco Bay Area). *R. F. G., POB 351, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0351. Evenings: (408) 423 1155.*

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA.** Outgoing, energetic, abled man, 35, 5'11", 175#, who enjoys adventure, romance, keeping busy and quiet times, nature and city life, friendship, would like to correspond with and meet disabled man who shares an active mind and a love of life. I'm a health professional, enjoy travel, communication, and look forward to talking. *Steven, POB 386, Larkspur, CA 94977, or ph: (415) 621 8208.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Hi, I'm a physically challenged gay white male. I'm looking for correspondence, and a possible future meeting, with people that are open minded and intelligent enough to realize that, even though I'm unable to walk, I do have the heart and physical ability to love. I would like to correspond with, and possibly meet, other physically challenged individuals. I would also like to hear from goodlooking, able-bodied men who are open minded enough to think that the challenged have more to offer than our wisdom. I have a great many interests, some of which include traveling, writing, reading, and bbs'ing. My favorite types of music are country and easy listening, although I also love a good classical piano concerto. Other interests include the performing arts and admiring nature. I enjoy going for a nice stroll in my chair with someone special. Even though I currently live in Southern California, I usually travel up to Northern California once a month and stay there for about a week. I have very youthful looks, a great personality, a high intelligence, and a heart that can easily get warmer than 98.6. (No that doesn't mean I get a lot of heartburn!) I look very fragile, but I think that the fact that I'm 42 and I've lived on my own for the last 20 years should be a sign that I'm not that delicate. Especially since I've been dependent on others to provide for my care. I'm sexually ready and able, but I have enough self-respect to sleep only with someone that I like. (When I was younger I felt like I had better take the sex while I had the chance.) Well, that's about it for now. I hope that I'll hear from some of you all. *Terry L. Hand, 1730 N. Towne Ave., #12, Claremont, CA 91711-3234.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Hi! This is Tim, working in entertainment and for global understanding. I'm 6'2", 30, brown hair/beard (very short), green eyes, 200#, slightly math-impaired. I'm looking for a chubby/heavysset guy with physical disability. I'm into a modern, natural environment, flexible but basically a New Age Democrat. Also into literature, music, dance, singing (I have a karaoke set), TV, radio, theatre, film, long strolls, laying around the house talking and falling



ADS

CA

asleep in each other's arms... [sigh]. Prefer your physical disability be since birth, such as CP or spina bifida, but replies welcomed from all overweight men. Preferred age range 30's to 70's - old enough to remember the 60's, not old enough to remember WWI. I look forward to your letter and picture/video (returnable). *Tim A., 4204 Revere Place, Culver City, CA 90230.*

**SEEKS FRIENDSHIP WITH LOVE.** My name is David. I am a 28 yr old college boy, 5'10", strong and in good shape. Dark-brown hair and, am told, very good looking. I love people and desire friendships, pen-pals and possible relationship. I am a warm, caring, out-going person who likes humor, fun-loving, happy-go-lucky type people. I love children, nature and animals. I teach the Healing Arts and Spirituality. I do massage. I live near Palm Springs, Ca, and enjoy visitors. Male or female, any color, nationality and any age are welcomed to reply. *David Glen, POB 815, Joshua Tree, CA 92252.*

**CALIFORNIA.** I am 56 years old, 225 #, 5'8", very hirsute, and versatile. Use an electric scooter to get around, suffer from MS; left leg paralyzed but rest of body is in fine working order. Ex HS teacher and originally from NY. Caring, warm, looking for permanent relationship. *Adolf Sand, 3756 Cardiff Avenue #104, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4090.*

**CALIFORNIA.** GWM, 58, 5'11", brn/hzl, 200 #, ambulatory with structural limitations. I'm into ham radio, camping, fishing, outdoors. I have a home but spend a lot of time on the coast in the travel trailer. Seeking a compatible gay/bi man who understands the hardships of being disabled, yet in that disability has discovered the true meaning of life, and wants to share the discovery. ABLE-TOGETHER says it all! I have a loving, caring nature, and can give all to the one I love. *Bud H., POB 382, Yolo, CA 95697.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Attractive bi white guy, 48, 6', 180 #, college grad, professional, desires friend for safe, discreet mutual massage and exploration. I have nerve damage affecting my feet and use a 3-wheel scooter. I am healthy, active, and mobile. Please be healthy, cut, and a non-smoker. *Richard, POB 64844, Los Angeles, CA 90064.*

**GAY NAVY VETERAN.** Disabled gay Navy veteran wishes to correspond with penpals from all over the world - you won't be disappointed! Write today! *Robert C. Healy, 1086 Post Street #309, San Francisco, CA 94109, telephone: (415) 921 8950.*

**ADVENTURES IN INTIMACY.** This disabled-aware abled WJM, attractive 44, fit, HIV neg., very hairy, muscular 5'10", 157#, bald with shaved head, clean shaven with unshaven lower lip/sometimes goatee, warm, caring, interested, biopsychospiritually oriented graduate student presently based in San Francisco is open to disabled



ADS

CA

or abled man for good connection - intimate friendship - travel - dating - relationship - hearing what you are open to. I am currently struggling with the huge void in my life occasioned by the recent loss of my partner of thirteen years. How on earth do I get back on life's bicycle? Let's see... I am a nice guy, honest, straightforward, open, with good, sensual hands and an adventurous mouth; I like much touch and affection, prefer a trim, muscular body, good teeth, five-o'clock shadow and, if you wear them, long sideburns. If you are interested to feel with me the pull generated by our on-the-surface differences, such as maybe in age or in certain physical characteristics, or to explore with me how non-different and connected we are underneath, or if anything I say here in some way speaks to you, then I hope you will want to get in touch. Prefer you be affectionate, adventurous, athletic, HIV neg., somewhat alternative, nonsmoking, nonscented and in your twenties, but hope to be truly open to all who are interested. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #252 or pb: (415) 431 8356.*

**CALIFORNIA.** GWM in South Orange County looking to meet same. Looking to make new friends and maybe even meet "Mr. Right". You can write me at POB 701, Lake Forest, CA 92630-0701, or call me at (714) 458 8965 before 10pm. Hope to hear from you soon. *Paul.*

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.** Professional GWM, 6'1", gym toned 160 lbs, very young looking 53, light brown hair, short beard, able-bodied, HIV-, who loves home, friends, outdoor activities, and travel. A past relationship with a disabled man was wonderful and I would like to find another. I live near San Francisco but would like to correspond also with people in other areas. All replies answered. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #310.*

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.** 37 year old paraplegic, professional, love to travel, meet men, and enjoy pleasing you orally! Seeking able bodied man between ages 25-37 to see if we can connect for fun and a unique experience! *Steven Crawford, POB 4515, Laguna Beach, CA 92652, telephone: (714) 497 6141.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Asian, 35, L2 paraparesic; I walk with a cane, but have limited feeling below my waist. I try to live life by the philosophy that every day is a gift because it's something you didn't have the day before. *Brian Tsai, 1730 Jackson Street #109, San Francisco, CA 94109.*

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA.** GWM 52, baby-faced, boyish, blind, bald and basically bold, professor emeritus CSULA art department now working as a counselor with newly blind and visually impaired people, spiritual in the Franciscan Tradition, recovering co- with tunnel vision for men, all the arts (including film), an inclination toward physical exercise and an ear for music, theater and heavy breathing, seeking long term relationship (eventually) with a guy who is evolved and



ADS

CA

comfortable with sharing his abilities and disabilities, his life, his body, his friends, his feelings and thoughts, HIV-, adventurous, funny, sensual, thoughtful, playful and centered. *Call (415) 861 5604 or reply with correct postage please to A-T #614.*

**SEEKS FRIENDSHIP WITH LOVE.** My name is David. I am a 28 yr old college boy, 5'10", strong and in good shape. Dark-brown hair and, am told, very good looking. I love people and desire friendships, pen-pals and possible relationship. I am a warm, caring, out-going person who likes humor, fun-loving, happy-go-lucky type people. I love children, nature and animals. I teach the Healing Arts and Spirituality. I do massage. I live near Palm Springs, Ca, and enjoy visitors. Male or female, any color, nationality and any age are welcomed to reply. *David Glen, POB 815, Joshua Tree, CA 92252.*

**CALIFORNIA.** During the past few months I have heard about the work of Shelley Taylor down at UCLA. Her research apparently deals with the positive aspects of denial as a coping strategy for dealing with stress. I'd like to know if anyone has heard about her work. I understand she has been dealing with groups of HIV+ men in the LA area. I am told she feels that in addition to other coping skills such as confrontation, rumination, suppression and aggression, a new coping skill that she calls the "illusory coping skill" has been identified in the HIV+ community: it is a sort of *the glass is always half full* philosophy of life, I think, but I would like to know more about it without running up my long distance telephone bill. Thanks. *Replies with correct postage to A-T #612.*

**CALIFORNIA.** GLM, 35 years old, non-smoker, wheelchair-user, loves cinema, R & B, jazz, dining out with a good glass of wine; seeks someone with compatible interests. Jose, ph (415) 864 4084, or write to A-T Box. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #392.*

**MY NAME IS MICHAEL.** I am 41, have black hair and brown eyes, and weigh 195 pounds. My right leg is amputated above the knee. I'm interested in making new friends and am definitely open to the possibility of romance. I enjoy going out with friends for dinner and a movie, play or concert. I also enjoy staying in for more intimate entertainment. I love listening to music, especially classical, latino, and the popular music of the 1930's. I like watching films, especially comedies and campy "B" movies. Another favorite pastime of mine is reading, especially fiction and self-help psychology. I also like to travel. If any of this sounds interesting, please give me a call at ph (213) 221 6472 or write to the A-T Box. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #330.*

**LOOKING FOR SOME GOOD FRIENDS.** I am 46, 5'9", 170 lbs, disabled, and very interested in corresponding with anyone disabled or abled - age, weight, disability, looks, not important. I am looking



not for a relationship, but for buddies for interactive exchange of photos, videos, letters, *whatever*. I have a video camera. Ray, POB 81613, San Diego, CA 92138.

**SEEKS FRIENDSHIP WITH LOVE.** My name is David. I am a 28 yr old college boy, 5'10", strong and in good shape. Dark-brown hair and, am told, very good looking. I love people and desire friendships, pen-pals and possible relationship. I am a warm, caring, out-going person who likes humor, fun-loving, happy-go-lucky type people. I love children, nature and animals. I teach the Healing Arts and Spirituality. I do massage. I live near Palm Springs, Ca, and enjoy visitors. Male or female, any color, nationality and any age are welcomed to reply. David Glen, POB 815, Joshua Tree, CA 92252.

**CALIFORNIA.** Hi! I'm a GWM, 44, 6', 180#, chair-man due to HIV; basically healthy, have motorized chair and get around pretty good. I like to cook, listen to music I can understand, see movies that make me cry or laugh out loud, and I like being with sincere people. I have 2 cats, smoke, rarely drink, no drugs. I'm looking for friends to do things with. LTR? ... No hurry. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #641.*

**ALL LETTERS WITH PHOTO ANSWERED.** GWM, 62, retired professional, financially secure, chubby but working on it, masculine, recent diabetic without serious symptoms and optimistic. I enjoy playing piano, writing songs and listening to music, photography, backgammon, computers, long walks, dogs, quiet evenings at home, and conversations tinged with perspective and a sense of humor. I am a volunteer for the blind and am interested in your sorts of problems, also open to hearing from others. And I particularly enjoy sharing experiences with younger persons. Hopefully you are 20-40 and looking for the possibility of something more than a pen-pal. Write to: George Green, POB 1312, Canyon Country, CA 91386-1312.

**LIVING AT THE BEACH IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.** Catholic, conventional, GWM 37, br/bl, 5'8", 145 lbs, great looks. I'm an abled professional with an advanced degree. I hope to connect with an educated, emotionally and sexually available para, 25-40, with good looks, a passion for living and old-fashioned values. Photo would be nice. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #976.*

**CALIFORNIA ARTIST.** Disabled male, 32, 5'7", 177 lbs, HIV-, brown hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, very little body hair, some say I am stocky and nice. I keep active and exercise when time permits. In life dreams can come true. In October '94 a piece of my Art was given to our President and now proudly sits in the White House. A second dream is to meet a man, become best friends and fall in Love with each other, share lifes ups and some downs. I have more dreams such as publishing an important self-help book and possibly co-producing

ADS

CA



ADS

CA

a film. I will make it happen. It would be extra special to share my dreams with another special man - that could be you reading my ad. I enjoy a variety of music, live entertainment, travel when possible, cooking, laughter, outdoor nature, camping, doing and planning a new experience never tried before, and so much more. Penpals, new friends, all welcomed; please send your letter and recent photo for mine. *Claudio D'Agostino, POB 34685, San Diego, CA 92163-4685.*

**CALIFORNIA.** Sexy, disabled GWM seeks friendship and fun with other men 35 and under, abled or disabled. I'm 30, 5'7", 140 lbs, HIV neg., dark brown hair and eyes. I walk with crutches and have limited use of my hands. I'm into movies, travel, computers and reading. Please be attractive, friendly, HIV neg., and not heavy into drugs/drink. Photo appreciated and will get mine. Blaine. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #013.*

**CALIFORNIA.** I am a 62 year old paraplegic male, in wheelchair 15 years, hoping to find a friend or friends to love and maybe a long-term relationship. I am not into drugs or S & M. I am 5'8", 168 lbs, graying hair, brown eyes. I enjoy country/western music, classical and jazz. Be GWM/GBM 35 to 60 and liking to make love. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #983.*

**CALIFORNIA.** 40 year old abled black male, interested in meeting others, abled and disabled, who are interested in Bi activities or who are Bi-curious. *Barry, ph (213) 667-9148.*

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA.** Dominant white male in wheelchair for 25 years, Vietnam vet, 49 years old, 145 lbs, salt & pepper hair, live alone, very independent. I would like to meet abled male for dates, light BD games, friendship and possibly more. Write with photo to: *POB 1253, Downey, CA 90240.*

**PENPAL-BUDDY.** I am a Bi(G)WM, soon 60, 5'10", 160#, bald, cleanshaven, healthy, HIV negative, newly retired and closeted. I have resisted my desires for years because of professional and family considerations - but I am now ready to volunteer my talents and skills on a sexual level to abled and disabled caring, goodhearted, healthy men of all ages and all cultures who are inclined to want an inexperienced buddy once in a while. Want to teach me? I'm a good learner! *Dick, POB 907, Fremont, CA 94537-0907*

**CALIFORNIA.** My name's Dale, I'm 35 years old, walking paraplegic (cane), HIV+, 5'8", 165 lbs, brown hair/eyes, mustache, hunky build, hairy chest and abdomen, masculine but sensitive, intelligent, seeking other masculine, sensitive, hairy men 40-50 with disabilities and a mustache who enjoy kissing, cuddling and slow, passionate lovemaking. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #839.*



**HELLO GUYS!** My name is Chris. I'm a 31 year old para in San Francisco hoping to find friends, fun and just maybe a long term relationship in these pages! I'm, 5'6", 130lbs, reddish blond and blue eyes. I enjoy country/western music, Roseanne, my art work, sunshine, rainy days in bed, evenings at home, laughter and smoking (oops!) my cigs. Hope to hear from you soon - and pictures much appreciated! If you're interested please call *ph.* (415) 923 9213 or write me at 926 Fillmore #104, San Francisco, CA 94117,

**ADS**

**CA - FL**

**COLORADO.** GWM 60 years old, 6'4", 250 lbs, brown eyes, brown/gray hair. I have been deaf for 20 years but speak good English; my likes are my home, cooking, oil painting, hobbies, and music. I'm in search of someone who likes cuddling, lots of love, and who is HIV negative like I am. I do not have a preference regarding your race and age, but a hairy body and uncut are pluses. If interested, please write with photo. *Burt Oglesby, 343 Linda Vista, Fountain, CO 80817.*

**COLORADO.** Spanish/German male with CP, ambulatory, can get around, 46 years young, black hair, brown eyes, 5'3", 130 lbs, HIV-. I want to meet stable, healthy, talentedly-oral "Daddy-type" GWMs abled and disabled, 30-60 yrs. Please write with photo (returned upon request) and I will send you mine. *Luis Perez, 1955 Arapahoe Street #806, Denver, CO 80202-1834.*

**COLORADO.** Young 55 white male would like to hear from above knee or above elbow amputees, also to correspond with others with similar interests. *Gene McKeever, POB 12189, Denver, CO 80212.*

**COLORADO.** GWM 50, abled, interested in sports for all abilities; I relate well to and would enjoy correspondence with physically disabled men. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #498.*

**COLORADO.** Mature, masculine, teddy bear type guy with non physically appearing disability and interests in boots, leather, seeks to meet same, 18-60, disabled or not, with similar interests. Lifelong interest in guys wearing braces. Intelligent, affectionate, caring, supportive. I am relationship oriented and can travel. Your photo appreciated, mine available. Write to: *Occupant, POB 38471, Colorado Springs, CO 80937.*

**GAY AND GOD GO GOOD TOGETHER!** Recently retired GWM, former social worker and ordained clergyman, full time RV-er, 64, 5'11", 215#, dark blond hair, glasses, non-smoker, non-drinker. Until recently I had an SSI-recipient young lover for eight years who decided he wanted to live the straight life. Now I am looking for a truly gay young man who can relate to an older man who wants to share all of life for a LTR. I will answer all letters. I have memberships in three RV resorts and three nationwide camping associations, a 32' travel trailer



ADS

FL

and GMC van and a modest retirement income, all of which will go to my companion when I am gone. I prefer someone open to the Christian faith and under 30, but all will be considered. Your photo appreciated but not required. *Ken Debus, POB 63, Lake Harbor, FL 33459.*

**FLORIDA.** Big bellied weightlifter - abled, 45 y.o., 5'6", 265#, smooth, tattooed, long blond hair, gray ring beard - seeks serious relationship. I'm versatile, creative. Prefer a simple life in the slow lane. I like books, music, the arts, old houses, young antiques, gardening, local politics. I've a weakness for bellies and beards, but by no means required. Will respond to all. *Jim B., 6822-22nd Avenue North #202, St. Petersburg, FL 33710.*

**FLORIDA.** Painter/sculptor, SBM 33, caring, generous, positive-minded paraplegic, no chip on shoulder. Fully capable of romance, pleasure, passion. Seek connection with open-minded couple or single for creative adventures, fun-loving friendships. Your love is important, not your race or religion. I look forward to contact with you by letter, phone or motel meetings. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #671.*

**FLORIDA.** Loyal friend, abled, masculine, educated, attractive, affectionate with sense of humor and healthy lifestyle, 5'11", 175#, 48, br/blue, dress traditional style, enjoy cultural activities, travel, swim, outdoors, cooking, massage. I welcome contact with professional type disabled or abled 60+ gentleman who has similar attributes, is independent, happy and well adjusted, for quality friendship, travel companion, or possible relationship. National/international, discretion assured, photo returned. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #718.*

**FLORIDA.** A refugee from New England, I am at present involved as a volunteer with three amputee support groups in the Tampa - St. Pete - Clearwater area, having worked in this way for many years. I moved down here permanently from Maine. Yes... I miss the coast and the lobsters and stuff, but... I don't miss those wicked nor'easters and windstorms. I am anxious to contact ABLE-TOGETHER subscribers, to get to know one another and maybe someday get to meet and greet. I will answer all letters. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #689.*

**TAMPA, FL METRO AREA.** GWM 47, abled, 6', hazel eyes, auburn/graying hair, stocky build, very well educated. I enjoy cultural and historical activities, museums and travel. I am a non-smoker, light drinker, no drugs! Good personality - honest, caring, trustworthy and discreet. I am looking for similar qualities in a man older than myself, someone loving and respectful, wheelchair/crutches/polio a plus. Will exchange photos. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #871.*

**HOPELESSLY ROMANTIC** GWM 38, 6', 190lbs, br/br, mustache, abled, in search of GWM 20-48 disabled who walks with



crutches. I enjoy dinners, movies, videos, the beach, amusement parks, quiet times and cuddling with that special person. I am an honest, caring trustworthy male who is interested in a monogamous relationship; I am very affectionate, loving and respectful. I live alone and close to the airport, and would welcome your visit. *Michael Kirnard, 2974 Wildhorse Road, Orlando, FL 32822, ph: (407) 249 0574.*

ADS

FL - GA

**FLORIDA.** GWM, 5'10", 190# (football player type body), 55, blue eyes, brown/grey hair, moustache, hairy, nice looking, masculine, very much in shape, together, happy-go-lucky, post-polio syndrome, wheelchair most of the time, Irish-Scotch-American Indian, quiet with a great sense of humor, non smoker, light drinker, no drugs. Interests: swimming, music (classical, opera, Broadway, jazz), cooking, gardening, beach. Looking forward to your letters, men. *John W. Harris, 5515 Madison Street, Hollywood Hills, Fl. 33021.*

**FLORIDA.** GWM 60, 6', 185 lbs. I have multiple sclerosis. I work and live alone. I'm shy, clean, safe, small-endowed. Would like to hear from friends and penpals. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #132.*

**GEORGIA.** GWM 40, 230 lbs, brown/green, abled, in search of a/k amp. man for friendship and possible relationship. Please send letter and photo to *KWS, 302 Kay Drive, Dalton, GA 30721, ph. (706) 259 6423.*

**GEORGIA.** I'm looking for a male friend, in all areas, with a sense of humor, who can also be serious. Ages 30-45. In uniform, with a beard, or very hairy is a plus, but look forward to hearing from you all - send a picture if you can. *Jay Costello, POB 95092, Atlanta, GA 30347.*

**ATLANTA ROMANTIC LOOKING FOR PASSION.** I'm a GWM, 5'7", 190#, EXTREMELY romantic individual with a non-visually-apparent disability. I'm 34 years young. I have long, naturally curly hair that cascades past my shoulder blades, and aqua blue eyes. I'm spiritually grounded, loving, caring, compassionate, understanding. A human being with a zest for life and all it has to offer. I have no problems with disabilities of any kind. Race is unimportant. As long as you're from the human race. I'm looking for a person with these same qualities to become my lifemate. I am a highly committed individual and expect the same. I prefer men who are 20-45. I'm turned on by long hair and white or blue jeans and white cotton briefs, and am open to different forms of sexual expression as long as pain isn't involved. I'm into the performing arts, all kinds of music with a preference for country and jazz, long walks on the beach, cuddling under the stars, and bringing happiness to others. I love to laugh and love. I live alone and would be open to visitors to our "Olympic City". I am a certified massage therapist and enjoy using my hands. I'm a gourmet chef and accomplished homemaker. You can send a picture if you like but I care more about what you look like on the inside than



ADS

GA - IL

the outside. I would be willing to relocate for the right person. Are you him? PLEASE WRITE: *Alden Harris, 429 N. Highland Ave. N. E., Suite #6, Atlanta, GA 30307-1455.*

**GEORGIA.** GWM 51, brown, blue, have polio of right leg, walk with a limp, cane and an attitude; interests in leather (top) and feet; orally sexual only and love to play all night long. I am looking for a younger man, construction or business type, no jocks. I am retired on a fixed income, but will welcome anyone coming to Atlanta. I am up very late at night and please call me on *ph. (404) 787 5864* or *replies with correct postage please to A-T #091.*

**HAWAII.** I'm 41, 6'2", AK stump amputee. I prefer crutches, so do not wear a limb. My older partner of fifteen years who died a year ago was attracted to my disability, and I'm looking for a permanent relationship with a generous guy who's turned on by my stump. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #790.*

**OAHU, HAWAII.** Aloha! My name is Ken, and I would like to meet any ABLE-TOGETHER subscribers that may be coming down to our beautiful tropical islands. I am an abled gay man, healthy and in good shape for a guy just turned 50. I am six feet tall and weigh 180 lbs. I never tire of the beach, and love to share the island lifestyle with men from the big cold island of North America. Hope to hear from friendly men out there! *Ken Smith, 841A Kainui Drive, Kailua, HI 96734.*

**ALOHA FROM HAWAII!** I am a 33 year old GWM on Maui who is particularly attracted to men who are amputees, especially AK and hip amputations. I am 6'1" and weigh about 190#. Dirty blond hair, mustache. I enjoy outdoor activities, especially the beach, swimming, snorkeling. I am especially turned on by Asian, Filipino, Polynesian, and Latino men, the less body hair and the more foreskin the better. Would like to correspond with any amputee or other guys who share the same interests. Take a chance and write, you never know where it might lead. Aloha. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #447.*

**ILLINOIS.** 25 yrs, 5'10", 140 lbs, bl/bl, smooth body. I am a top wheelchair basketball and top 5 tennis player. I'm an incomplete quad. - have full sensation and mobility on right side and partial on left and can walk with crutches. I'm well-built and very cute and looking for other athletic masculine men (preferred age range 30-45 but open). If you are healthy, attractive and love sports and would like to meet a very goodlooking and incompletely disabled athlete, please get in touch. Photo, return address and 'phone # appreciated if you write. *Robby, 700 S. Lewis Lane #1803, Carbondale, IL 62901, ph (618) 549 7049.*

**ILLINOIS.** Hi! My name is Russ Pyle and I'm a quadriplegic. I have been for the last 14 years. I am a GWM, HIV-, and am a young looking



50 years old. I am looking for someone preferably in the Central Illinois area who is between 25 and 40 years old. I am a very generous and open person. Prefer you be gay/bi, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed a plus. If you are interested in writing to me, let's see what might develop. Please send a picture with your letter if you can. I will answer all replies, and any location. Hope to hear from you soon!! *Russ Pyle, 1580 Highland Place, Decatur, IL 62526.*

ADS

IL - MD

**ILLINOIS.** GWM, abled, is attracted to and interested in meeting guys who wear leg braces, also guys wearing teeth braces; would also like to hear from guys with similar interests. *Terry Troutman, POB 1107, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.*

**ILLINOIS.** Hi! My name is Kurt; I'm 35 years old, have blond hair, blue eyes, T-12 spinal cord injury since June 1991; I'm independent, successful and good looking. Looking for friends and possibly more with the right person - able bodied or disabled. Please send photo for a quick reply. (Prefer 18-35.) *Kurt S. 2301 Broadway, Quincy, IL 62301.*

**IOWA.** Disabled single white male, 45 years old writer, wishes sincere, "professional" white male to correspond with and meet. Please write if you are interested in permanent monogamous relationship. Your sincerity and honesty are much more important to me than your physical statistics. *Bruce J. Ness, 127 Westgate Drive #22, Forest City, IA 50436.*

**HEAVENLY MAN WITH EARTHLY PLEASURES.** GWM 30, 6'1", in search of wheelchair GWM 25-45 from all over USA for friendship and possible relationship. I like alternative rock, jazz and classical music, museums, conversations over coffee, politics, candlelight dinners, sports and movies. Looks are not important, but honesty, openness and candor are a must. Please do not be bisexual, married, HIV or into S&M/drugs. I welcome responses nationwide; please respond with letter, mailing address and telephone number - photo nice, but not necessary. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #653.*

**MARYLAND.** GWM, mature, hairy, 6ft, blue/brown-gray, 185/190lbs. Life-long attraction to GMs with one leg shorter than the other or club foot or limp. I am truthful, loving, monogamous and seek same in mate for a permanent relationship. I like antiques, classical music & opera, cooking, travel, loving home in beautiful environment. My handicap is a short penis with small, mis-mated balls. Hope that our handicaps can be combined for mutual deep love and understanding. Please write to: *John, 1110 Fidler Lane #801, Silver Spring, MD 20910, ph. (301) 589 1873.*

**BALTIMORE - WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA.** GRAY'S OKAY! You: differently abled or abled, open to life and new experiences,



ADS

MD - MA

optimistic, any age, size, shape, color (darker a plus!), drug-free, alcohol-addiction-free, financially self-supporting. Me: retired professional 60's, 6', 165 pounds, salt-and-pepper (more salt than pepper) hair, hirsute, goatee and moustache, some limp and limitations from arthritic knee. ISO friendship, maybe more. Interests include, but not limited to: transpersonal psychology (esp. reincarnation and ESP), African-American and Civil War history, Eastern Christian/esoteric spirituality, literature, reading, music from Bach to Yanni (high on Santana and oldies), cuddling, massage, affectionate creativity, maybe even light LTR w/right man. Am functional in Spanish and German. *Occupant, POB 4409, Brookland Station, Washington, DC 20017-0409.*

**MARYLAND.** John, recently wheelchair bound with MS, goodlooking GWM 32, blond hair, hazel eyes, 5'11", 175 lbs, HIV-, swimmer's build, very active both sexually and physically. I enjoy swimming, working out at the gym and going to night spots, clubs and staying home with the right person, and I love to travel and sunbathe. I'm in search of a top man 18-45 with similar interests, with/without a handicap, strong and preferably muscular, ready for adventure, friendship, possible ltr. Please write with photo. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #737.*

**MARYLAND.** GWM, 35, paraplegic, 5'11", 140lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes. Very good upper body strength. My interests include music, movies, literature, sports, and having good times. I would like to correspond with GWM paraplegic, 18 to 45 years old. Interested in getting together for friendship with the possibility of a sexual and emotional relationship. I would prefer to hear only from paraplegic men but am interested in hearing from other gay disabled men too. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #470.*

**MARYLAND.** Reasonably attractive Italian-Irish male, very healthy 55 (look 45), 5'10", 185 lbs, 38" chest, 36" waist, hazel eyes, brown hair, liberal Republican, dissenting Papist (Dignity), in transition from marriage, looking for companionship. I am an incomplete quadriplegic, able to stand and transfer, all working plumbing, and hoping for more recovery. I like Italian men, but am open to all; I am looking for a facilitator and comforter, abled or disabled. I like classical music, visual arts, politics, theater, museums; I would love one day to tour European cathedrals and hear their organs - perhaps with you? *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #894.*

**MASSACHUSETTS.** My name is Phil. I'm an abled gay man, 38 years old, 5'11", 210#, brown hair/beard, and live in the Boston area. I own two successful businesses, am financially quite secure, enjoy traveling when I can find the time - my favorite destination is Las Vegas! I enjoy my extensive coin collections, watching the same movies over and over, some science fiction, tropical fish keeping, dining out (when I



ADS

MA - MI

get tired of my lousy cooking!), a good glass of wine and cuddling on the sofa. I am college educated and have a commercial pilot's license. I'm very attracted to disabled gay men, preferably younger than I, who have a good sense of humor and who like to cuddle! Even though I'm more attracted to a person's personality, I do find certain disabled men very appealing! I desire a long term relationship, not just sex - it's nice but not that important to me. If that's you too, please drop me a note. I promise a prompt and honest reply to every letter I might receive. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #731.*

**MASSACHUSETTS.** GWM 38, 6'3", 235 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, beefy paraplegic, navy veteran, CEO of own company. I love travel, warm climates, hugging, cuddling. I like watching sports - gymnastics, swimming, tennis and figure-skating. Looking for a lifemate. *Ron, 25 Quisset Brook Road, Milton, MA 02186.*

**MASSACHUSETTS.** Artist/teacher in Boston, 55, very disabled-aware abled, thoughtful, sensitive, many interests, travel throughout New England, looking to correspond/exchange photographs with all and any interested men. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #368.*

**MASSACHUSETTS.** I'm a recent para (T-10), finding it difficult to adjust. I wheel along the ocean, garden, stamp collect, watch classic movies, read and try to laugh. I'm an athletic 45, 5'7", 148 lbs, with brown hair and eyes, olive skin, Italian looks. I am looking for gay companionship of all kinds - would love some penpals, friends, and maybe ... *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #907.*

**MASSACHUSETTS.** GWM 44, minor vision problem but a real man. I would like to hear from others. Please write and send photo and I will do the same. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #796.*

**MASSACHUSETTS.** GWM 36, with cerebral palsy. Manual wheelchair user. Very independent, articulate, intelligent, respectful, laid-back and lovable. I love music from classical to rock, films, dining out, drawing, conversation, being with friends, the outdoors, honesty, laughter and affection. I am commitment oriented and monogamous by nature. Am looking for correspondents, friendships and possible long term relationship. If you have similar interests and a passion for life, I'd love to hear from you. - Stephen. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #781.*

**MICHIGAN/CALIFORNIA.** Alternative, progressive, independent GWM 34, 5'8", 140#, long brown hair and eyes, with offbeat good looks and keen sense of humor. I've been in a wheelchair since I was 21 from a car accident. I'm well-adjusted and well-traveled and with diversified interests. My search is for a confident, artistic, abled GWM 20-40 who is looking for a love connection. I have a



**ADS**

**MI - MN**

great circle of friends but something is missing. I commute from LA back to Michigan regularly. If interested write me with a recent photo of yourself; I'm looking forward to all responses. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #883.*

**MICHIGAN.** GWM, 6', 185 lbs, interested in hearing from (especially leg-) amputees - also from guys wearing dentures. I would also welcome hearing from men with like interests. *Please write: POB 186, East Tawas, MI 48730.*

**SOUTH WEST MICHIGAN.** GWM, retired 57 year old, 5'10", 145lbs, old polio with leg brace. I live alone and would enjoy writing to and possibly meeting others who don't mind those of us that are in some way different. I would be happy to exchange photos. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #393.*

**MINNESOTA.** GWM 48, 5'10", 180#, br/hz, looking for life partner with whom to share mutual achievements, interests and lifestyle amenities. I'm a successful professional post-polio wheelchair user in a north central community, very loving, committed in relationships, open minded, with few hangups. I'm interested in a GWM 35-45, currently abled, HIV-, secure, together, with a great sense of humor, affectionate, and who is successful in his life goals. Interest in outdoor as well as indoor life a plus. Sincere letters will receive replies (photo nice but not initially necessary). *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #791.*

**MINNESOTA.** GWM, disabled from a car accident. I walk with a cane, and use a wheelchair at times. I am a redhead, with a beard, and a light complexion. I am 34. Like to read, watch movies (especially science fiction and comedies), sip gourmet coffee, visit. I am seeking a special friend, disabled or able-bodied. A person person. Please write, all are answered. *Bob Barr, 180 Wayzata Street #507, Saint Paul, MN 55117.*

**THE BIBLE SAYS:** ...*you should love with all your mind, soul and heart...*  
As a Gay Christian I am in search of a **LTR** with **Mind, Gentle Spirit**, and a **Soft Spot** in my **Heart** for a **SE Asian** or **Russian** male who enjoys watching sports (baseball, basketball, gymnastics, et. al), giving/receiving massages, computers, candlelight dinners, slow dancing, quiet times at home and who is 100% chemically free - **no** drink or smoking. I am in my **40's**, look like my **30's** and feel like my **teen-thru-20's**. I am quiet, shy and work with youth athletics. If you are **?-35**, have a need for a friend **first**, understanding **second**, and possible relationship **third**, please feel free to drop me a letter. I lost my **first and only** after **over 10 years** to a car accident in which I broke my back. I walk with a slight limp as a result. Since then I have been celibate. I am not **OUT** and for now I want to keep it that way. **All** serious replies will be answered, discreetly. Thank you for your kindness and support. *David Hedlund, 115 West 31st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408-3110.*



**MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.** I am a GWM, 49 years old, weigh about 155 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair and mustache. I have a neuro-muscular disability which is not too severe. I use a manual wheelchair but can walk a little. Overall I am quite healthy and a non-smoker. I am a research scientist, live independently and drive a van. In addition to typical interests (movies, music, etc.), I enjoy traveling. Over the past several years I have done a lot of traveling and plan more trips in the future. I would like to find some companions for future trips, disabled or abled, depending on the trip. I am attracted to someone who is 30-50, easy-going, masculine, slim to medium in build, and hairy (beard and mustache a plus). He must be a non-smoker and non-drug-user. *Bill Helgeson, 410 Groveland Ave. #702, Minneapolis, MN 55403, ph: (612) 871 3630 before 10pm.*

**SOUTH WEST MINNESOTA.** 32 years old, looking for friendship, someone to be the buddy I never had, to share what life has to offer. I enjoy the outdoors, walking, sunsets and sunrises, spending time at the lake, gardening, flowers and plants. Non-smoker and no drugs. Penpals welcomed, and all replies answered. *J. W. Wendorff, 460 Emory Street, Tracy, MN 56175-1132.*

**MINNESOTA.** 43 year old quad. of 15 years, 5'9" and 155 lbs. My interests include football games, auto racing, body building, x-rated movies. I am looking to hear from others, abled and disabled, couples and all ages welcome to respond. Send short letter with long photo and I will respond similarly! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #804.*

**MISSOURI or SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA.** GWM 33, 5'10", 155 lbs, light brown hair, blue eyes, HIV+, wearing a brace on left leg. I am living in Missouri now, but relocating Fall '95 to San Francisco where I lived from 1982-1991. I am looking for emotionally enriching relationships - friends, lover - with sincere gay men 30-50, abled or disabled. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #904.*

**MISSOURI.** GWM, 5'8", 170 lbs, 41 years old, also blind. I am sincere, compassionate and caring, and seeking other gay men who are either blind or who are sighted and accepting of blind people. My interests include walks, eating out, amusement park rides, or just staying at home watching TV or listening to music. I am open minded and enjoy answering any questions concerning blindness, so if you are sighted please do not be afraid. Looking forward to hearing from you. *Don, ph (314) 874 6010.*

**MISSISSIPPI.** GWM, 58, 5'11", 210#, gr/br hair and beard, HIV-, use crutches or cane, seeking GWM, 35+ for friendship/relationship. Hairy body, beard and/or stache a plus. I am a smoker, moderate drinker, no drugs. I am a low vision person, so please consider that when writing. I enjoy almost all music except Rock, like camping,



**ADS**

**MS - NJ**

boating, swimming, watching some TV, travel when possible, small parties, dining in as well as dining out, also the theater, arts and museums. I consider myself to be a computer novice but I do enjoy working with the computer and learning new things. I also enjoy some of the gay BB's in my local area. I am a warm and considerate person who enjoys cuddling, kissing and making love, holding and being held. I'm not into any of the B&D or S&M scenes and do not like pain. *Sam Tolar, 1521 W. Highland Drive #H-4, Jackson, MS 39204-2117.*

**NEW HAMPSHIRE.** GWM, 46, 6', 190 lbs, HIV-, abled, honest, sincere; I love the country and mountains; I collect antiques; I travel some in the north-east. I am attracted to men who are amputees. Looking to hear from an amputee, also from someone else with similar interests. Photo and phone # appreciated. *Ed Openshaw, POB 65, Rumney, NH 03266, pb(603) 786 9922.*

**NEW JERSEY.** Hot 28-year old white guy, 5'10 1/2", 167 lbs, healthy, HIV-neg., drug-free, brown hair, blue eyes, cleanshaven, real good muscular build, smooth body, right leg mid-thigh amputee, agile and ambulatory with prosthesis and/or crutches. I am eager for mischievous sensuality with very tactile, sensitive partner(s), affectionate, cuddly. Depending on where the vibes take me I am open to different kinds of sexual expression and relationship, including one-on-one. You could be described as a horny tits, ass and stump man, and into fun friendship as well. I have no racial, size or age prejudices, and could even go for a m/f couple as long as the guy is bi or gay. Honest, frank communicating is a must. Your photo/phone # gets mine. *Boxholder, POB 7354, Freehold, Nj 07728.*

**NEW JERSEY.** Goodlooking masculine GBM, 30's, 6'3", 200lbs, b/k amp who is shy and passionate, likes movies, music, theater and sports, seeking to establish network of friends (20-50) with thirst for fun; any race welcome, please write with photo. *R. K. Williams, 539 Diamond Springs Ave., Cherry Hill, Nj 08003-3606.*

**COVERS ALL EASTERN STATES!** GWM, super senior mid 60's, 6'2", 220 #, long time A-T subscriber, semi retired, travels eastern seaboard and New England. Attracted to leg amputees - your loss no handicap to understanding and possible friendship and/or relationship. Would also like to hear from those with a similar attraction. Drop me a line, I'll take it from there! *Steve Miller, POB 341, Union City, Nj 07087.*

**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.** Partially disabled, ambulatory, heavy GWM looking for lover. Me: 46, 6', 250 lbs, brown eyes, brown hair, beard, HIV -. Like to laugh, cuddle and snuggle. Like books, bookstores, classical music, restaurants, movies. You: GWM 35-50, slim to muscular, with similar likes. Letter and photo get mine. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #613.*



**NEW YORK.** GWM, 37, looks much younger, 5'6", 152#, br/br, college grad, handsome, deaf (ASL), quadriplegic - caused by diving accident; look like paraplegic; healthy, ex-ski instructor/racer. Wheelchair racquetball, weightlifting, camping, bowling, travel, pedal cycling, etc., - very active person outdoors. Would like to meet disabled or non-disabled under 45 (no fems or overweights). Please write with photo. *Bill Searles, Green Mansions Rd., Chestertown, NY 12817.*

**NEW YORK.** GWM 41, abled, goodlooking, short and husky, looking to make new friends, sex partners and maybe more. I am addicted to mystery novels and video porn. Please be smart, liberal and not too serious. You can be anywhere as I travel often and widely for work. Be abled or disabled - my dearest friend is a GWM quad. *Mark Simon, 1324 Second Ave. #4C, New York, NY 10021, ph (212) 737 6685.*

**NYC/VIRGINIA/DC.** 20 year old abled college student seeks 18-35 gay or bi male for friendship. Disabled a plus. I have varying interests such as movies, museums, volley-ball, computers, partying and dancing, also I am masculine, discreet, easygoing, friendly - and open and flexible to new ideas. I live in NYC in the summer and I go to school in Virginia during the fall. *Paul, POB 3361, Charlottesville, VA 22903 or ph: (212) 592 3899 (voice-mail # good thru' end August). Internet: pjs5w@virginia.edu*

**NEW YORK.** I am a non-disabled GWM 6 ft. 175 lbs, in-shape, HIV(-), 57, professional, affectionate, and, like everyone, I am looking for that "Special Person"! Personality and character along with a purpose in life, someone who doesn't let his handicap get him down, are important traits to me. I am particularly attracted to "Men of Color". Your picture gets mine, but not necessary. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #374.*

**NEW YORK.** GWM, 35, 6', br/br, sometimes beard, heavyset, good looking, masculine, living in NY. Looking to meet or correspond with men who have a physical disability: paraplegics, quads, polio or other disability. (Endowment not an issue and erection capability not necessary.) Other physical attributes are unimportant if someone is willing. I am understanding and patient and can match my pace to yours. Having been heavy my whole life, I understand how inside everyone, regardless of the packaging, there is a special person who is very attractive. I am only looking for a physical relationship, to share good times and have fun with each other, always respecting limitations and desires. I am great with my hands and can be creative and versatile in both interests and activities, given a willing partner with particular interests or needs. I can be a very generous person in the right circumstances. Also, I would love to meet, talk to and/or correspond with others who share my interests, especially, but certainly not limited to, those whose focus is on legs and bare feet. I'm great with fantasies,

ADS

NY



ADS

NY

having had a lot of practice, and would love to share some of mine if you share some of yours. Would love to find sources for videos, books, photos, etc. I will answer all who write, please send phone and photo if possible. If you're out there, and I know you are, please write. You'll never know if something wonderful can develop if you don't take the chance. *Bert Michaels, 954 Lexington Avenue #172, New York, NY 10021.*

**SUPERSTAR WANTED** for starring role in my life. I'm 37, 6'2", 180#, goodlooking GWM, not disabled but looking for disabled friends for fun, romance and more. I work in the arts, travel frequently. Looking for guys, 20-50, perhaps post-polio with braces, wheelchair, crutches, but will answer all. *Peter. Replies with correct postage please to A-T #384.*

**ITALIAN-AMERICAN!** Hi, I'm an Italian-American disabled male with big loving heart and squeezable body, and I am looking for an able-bodied, good-built Italian-American male. I am looking for friendship first, sharing love and life. I am kind, considerate, and full of love to give to *caro ragazzo mio*. Is it you? *Pasquale J. Monaco, 180 Bethel Loop, #9E, Brooklyn, NY 11239, telephone # (718) 942 0701.*

**NEW YORK.** Able bodied GWM searching for disabled and abled contacts for good conversation (by phone or letter), possible meeting and sharing mutual feelings. I am 40 years old, 5'7", dark hair, blue eyes, a professional, very preppy in appearance and dress. I am hearing impaired and wear hearing aids - but they only help to make communication better! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #264.*

**NEW YORK.** I'm Joe, 48 year old GWM, 5'10", 175 lbs, light brown hair with gray trim and balding, hazel eyes, moustache, and not bad looking. I had a stroke in 1981 and quadruple bypass in 1994: have a very slight limp, erection unpredicatabilities, doing real fine otherwise, planning to get a house right here in the tundra. It's a great sensation for me to please another and I have a great deal of love to give to the right person. You would be younger, masculine, handsome, hopefully but not necessarily hairy, endowed, and open to sharing life, house, expenses. I'm on SSI, have a dog, an all white retriever named BEAR, have my BS, am a qualified chef, am very loving, honest, trustworthy, loyal, caring (including laundry, cooking and cleaning!) and most affectionate. I don't smoke, drink, or have any involvement with drugs. I am very clean, HIV negative, and hopefully you are also. I don't mind a social drinker, but I do mind alcoholics, drugs. Smoke bothers me, but I can adjust. If you're interested in the pleasures I can supply, which would in turn greatly satisfy me, please respond with your stats and photo. *Joe Krulisky, 1969 Falls Street # 1, Niagara Falls, NY 14303-1713.*

**NEW YORK.** WM, 49, 5'8", 175 lbs, brown hair and eyes, clean-shaven, smooth body, very muscular bubble butt, affectionate, non-smoker, HIV negative, polio survivor, use cane for stairs only, able-



bodied in appearance, seek friendship, hot times, pen-pals. Prefer local men but am open to travel. Photo/phone # helpful, and please be a non-smoker. Thank you! *Box 8211, Jackson Heights, Queens, NY 11372.*

**I LOVE TO SHARE NEW YORK WITH VISITORS.** 46 yo WM, physician able-bodied, loss of vision in left eye since car accident. Interested in friendship - and/or... My first lover was an amputee and I would be interested to connect with someone with a similar disability. Enjoy opera, theater, travel, singing with NYC Gay Men's Chorus. Give a call if you're in the Big Apple! *Michael B. Gebl, 95 Horatio Street #706, New York, NY 10014, telephone: (212) 255-4140.*

**YOUR PHOTO GETS MINE.** Goodlooking, well-built, GWM, 45, 5'8", 150 lbs, green eyes, salt and pepper crew cut, into weight-lifting, motorcycles, leather, videos, photos and my very good imagination! Am attracted to men with one or more amputations and would love to hear from one such, also from someone else with similar interests. Looking for correspondence and maybe more. Any takers? *Alan Johnson, 487 East Main Street #158, Mount Kisco, NY 10549-0110.*

**NEW YORK.** GW abled Daddy Bear, 46 yrs. old, 6', 260 lbs, greying beard and moustache, cigar-smoking biker type, long time disabled-aware activist, attracted to differences and those who appreciate them. I am looking to explore a long list of interests, including kinks and fetishes, with disabled/abled men who use their imaginations first and their bodies second in long, slow encounters to prove that the mind is the greatest sex toy. My non-sexual interests include writing, theatre, design and photography. Write or call if you wannasee where our imaginations can take us... *Max E. Verga, 141 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238, ph: (718) 852 1960.*

**NEW YORK.** GWM, 41, 5'11", 155 lbs, good youthful muscular looks, swimmer's body, brown hair, hazel eyes, multilingual, abled; interested in travel, reading, music from opera to house, and cooking; seeking disabled friend, 25-45, - especially if you are Arab, Indian or Latino. *Paul S. Rankin, 50 Bank Street, New York, NY 10014.*

**WANTED: LIFEMATE/BEST FRIEND.** Italian, 40, 5'10", 190 lbs, caring, sincere, passionate, Christian, honest, secure, broad interests in and out of bed, outgoing, fun, seeks you:- butch boy 28-44, masculine, perhaps in a chair or hearing impaired (I know sign language), serious, relationship-oriented, sincere, honest, secure, a little shy, Christian, enjoy life, caring, sense of humor, drug-free, HIV-. I live in Finger Lakes area of New York State. Write to A-T Box or call Bill, ph. (607) 962 4354 6pm-9pm weekdays. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #428.*

**NEW YORK.** GWM, abled, 35, 185, 6', very handsome with Mediterranean good looks, brown hair and eyes, clean shaven, muscular,

ADS

NY



ADS

NY

athletic and gym-fit; looking to meet all types of physically disabled men, especially attracted to amps, paras and post-polio guys. I'm HIV- and into very hot safe sex and mutual satisfaction. Write or call: *Alex Exarchos, 135 West 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, ph (212) 595 5755.*

**NEW YORK.** 43 year-old, shy, learning-disabled gay hispanic man with young skin, interested in correspondence. I want to know how to be an excellent lover in and out of the bedroom - any of your ideas might be helpful. *Ramon Bellido, POB 2526, New York, NY 10027.*

**NEW YORK.** GWM 57, 5'11", 160 lbs, HIV neg., AK amp., graying light-brown hair, blue eyes. Not only disabled because of amp. but also because of hemophilia. Mostly use power wheelchair. I have a live-in PCA who is straight. I am an artisan and most of my living comes from the making and selling of miniature furniture (dolls houses) to museums. I also paint and am a would-be sculptor. I am looking for a GWM, HIV neg., a life partner, lover and friend, of cheerful disposition - I am like that as soon as I open my eyes in the morning. (Dis)ability, looks, age, are all unimportant, what is important is our love for each other & love for miniatures and for the finer things in life, like classical/semi-classical music, with some c & w, good food (I like to cook), art, books, movies, and anything that's gay. Please do be a good conversationalist. Please don't be kinky - I'm not into pain, having had enough of it. I need someone that will not only be a life partner but will also share in my work. Will answer all who write. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #582.*

**NEW YORK, BRONX/TRI-STATE.** Disabled super heavy set gay white/hispanic male 42, 5'11", 415#, dark hair and eyes, balding and glasses, limited mobility. I enjoy TV, VHS, movies, video-games and music. I am looking for local buddies with similar interests. Photo & phone with your first letter appreciated. Let's see where this takes us! *Eddy, POB 651, Bronx, NY 10466.*

**LONG ISLAND.** GWM 45, 5'2", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, moustache, eyeglasses, considered handsome and masculine, smoker, light drinker. Interests include antiques, PBS, music, swimming, dancing, long walks. I am warm, gentle, loving and race- & handicap-friendly. I prefer you to be masculine and height/weight proportionate and if possible from NY/LI area. Photo appreciated. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #765.*

**NEW YORK.** GWM 39, 5'6", 138 lbs, br/br, mustache & beard, mentally disabled, taking GED classes from vis ed, want to learn computer electronics. I like camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, walking the woods nude. Would like to meet friends, buddies, penpals. Call or write - let's get together soon. *Steven G. Nichols, POB 271, Saratoga, NY 12866, ph: (518) 581 1714.*



**NEW YORK.** GWM 27, 5'10", outgoing, good sense of humor, straight acting, affectionate, enjoys beaches, movies, sunsets, just relaxing by the fire, seeks GWM 18-30, disabled a plus, for friendship, relationship. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #651.*

**I LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA.** Able bodied 58, 6'1", 220 lbs, gray hair, hazel eyes, hairy chest; I'm attracted to handicapped men; I'm retired and travel a great deal, and would love to hear from you wherever you are. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #508.*

**OHIO.** SWM, 40 years old, 140 lbs, HIV-, non-smoker and non-drug-user, drink very little, lost my right arm at the shoulder due to a motorcycle wreck. I am a very sincere, honest and responsible person. I would like to find the same qualities in a man who would like either to have a one to one relationship with me or just to be a good friend so that we could be honest with and have a good time with each other. *Dana K. Hale, 800 Everhard Road SW #707, North Canton, OH 44709.*

**OREGON or SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA.** Hi! I'm Tod, a GWM 29, 6'4", overweight (working on that!) but not a slob. Broad shoulders - built like a football player, abled. Brown hair/eyes, mustache, goatee, and a lovable, hugable and slightly hairy body. Been told I'm handsome, masculine, straight in appearance and I know I have a gutsy sense of humor. I live in Portland, OR but am moving to the Bay Area in Spring '96. I enjoy new situations and challenges and learning new things. I am looking for a life-mate who I can commit to - who is physically disabled and will love and accept me as I will you. I prefer shy men who are independent but needing to share their life with someone who loves them back. I don't have any other physical expectations of you as I have learned that it's the person inside that will keep us together. I like spending time together doing simple things like shopping or visiting a museum. I enjoy the simple experience of having someone in bed beside me. I cherish physical intimacy but choose not to cheapen it with trash talk or head games. I love getting to know the real you and opening myself up in return. I am sincere, thoughtful, caring and have a positive outlook. If you can stand all of that, please write - I will answer all replies, we'll never know what happiness we could share until you take that first step! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #698.*

**PORTLAND, OREGON AREA.** GWM, mid 30's, 5'10", 165 lbs, It brown hair, blue eyes, able bodied. Would like to meet or correspond with disabled guys. I have a special fondness for amputees, but would like to hear from all, also from abled guys who share my interests. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #472.*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** 22 year old GWM seeks persons with disabilities for friendship. I have brown hair and eyes, stand five feet eight inches

ADS

NY - PA



ADS

PA

tall, weigh 110 pounds and wear glasses. I was born with mildly severe Cerebral Palsy which affects my ability to walk, my speech (although I can be understood on the phone), and bladder function. I am ambulatory, but use an electric wheelchair for long distances. Presently I am a college student in my third year at Temple University where I am majoring in Human Resource Administration and eventually plan to attend law school. My hobbies and interests include computers, playing chess, reading, writing, world affairs, and disability-related issues. For the past three years I have been very happily involved in a long term relationship with a man who is abled and is in his forties. Please write or telephone before 10pm eastern standard time *Brian Peaceman, 352 Valley Brook Road, Apt. A-6, Ambler, PA 19002-4341, pb(215) 540 0189.*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** GWM, 39, sincere, warm, caring, intelligent, humorous, shy Leo, handsome (blush!), dark hair, beard, blue eyes, hairy back-butt-legs, HIV-, person with a disability, power wheelchair user, seeks friendship for mutual support, computer BBS-ers (?), videos, music, hugs, safe times, r/fr. No drugs, smoke, pain. *CWF, 3901 Market Street #1913, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3131.*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** GWM, 6'4", T-7 para, brown hair, blue eyes, 180 lbs, 41 yrs, braces, big balls, penile implant ever-ready. Like long, hard, safe, sane, horny encounters; enjoy travel, movies, mountains, sweaty nights and sticky mornings. Your letter, photo get mine. Stay well! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #529.*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** Abled gay male, 32, wishes to meet disabled or abled gay male(s) for cultural events, travel, intimate luncheons, torrid steamy overnight or long weekend trips, or a long-term relationship (and preferably all of the above!). Seeking friends is a given, of course, but this 5'10", hirsute, mustached and short-bearded bear wants to meet a man with the ability to challenge me intellectually as well as sexually; a man with a strong sense of his own identity as well as an unquenchable thirst for intense, romantic, one-to-one lovemaking and a lack of fear of long-term commitment. I prefer someone in my age bracket (30 to 40-ish), but I would not turn away someone in his 20's, 40's or 50's who possesses the character traits I seek. I would also consider relocating, if the individual in question needs this as part of a commitment - all is negotiable! Are you ready for me? *Evan M. Malin, Fox Chase Station POB 24725, Philadelphia, PA 19111-0725.*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** GWM 40 years old with a swimmer's build, with cerebral palsy, use a wheelchair to get around. I have my college degree in theatre. I wrote a play and it was staged at Penn State University in the main campus. Believe me - I don't let my disability get in my way. I live on my own, one hour away from Philadelphia and one hour away from New York City. My interests are the theatre, working out at the gym, dancing, going to the beach in the summer, going to see



male dancers, and traveling. Believe me, I do everything. I am looking for someone to be with to enjoy life as we live it. I am also looking for disabled guys to write to me and tell me how they cope with the everyday world, and to share ideals with. And... is there any guy out there who wants to take a vacation? Please contact me if you do. I need a vacation so bad. I was thinking about going to one of the islands, just lay out on the beach and look at the view. *Bill Lasch, 1101 Seneca Street #208, Bethlehem, PA 18015.*

**PENNSYLVANIA.** I'm a black male, 38 years old, 5'10", 291lbs, I have salt & pepper receding hairline and brown eyes. I have a slight mental disability. I am seeking a life-mate who is willing to relocate or I am willing to relocate for the right person. Please write or call at any time. *Edward Harris, 1041 West 1st Street, Oil City, PA 16301-3201, ph. (814) 676 3240.*

**IN SEARCH OF ABLED LIFE MATE.** Non-mainstream GWM, 50, 5'8", 145#, bl/bl, simple, quiet, honest professional, traveled performer and arts educator with very high public profile. I am discreet, masculine, caring, sensitive and daring, a risk-taker. Physical disability due to polio, use wheelchair, but not confined to it, not paralyzed. Disability does not mean dependent. If you are a 40+ vital, masculine, articulate, loving man with a sense of himself and his sexuality who understands the words *loyalty, commitment, responsibility*, and wants to share the future and a monogamous relationship with another warm and understanding man, then write to *POB 654, Emmaus, PA 18049.*

**BIG WHEELS KEEP ON TURNING.** Do you have dreams of having someone who is hard working, loyal, honest, caring, loving, and has no problem being monogamous? I do too! I hold within my heart the hope and dream that, somewhere out there, there is a GWM or BiM 35 to 55, who is sincerely seeking a stable, loving and caring friendship or a one-on-one relationship. I'm a GWM 42, easily passing for early 30's, 125 lbs, bk/br, with mustache. I have a smooth, boyish swimmer's build. Being half Italian and half French I'm an incurable romantic. I love candlelight dinners, movies, the theater, picnics, letting the rain fall on me, spending time out of doors camping and at the beach, and quiet times at home cuddling. I also have a passion for art and music. Now using a wheelchair, I have turned what many see as a handicap into a positive force of strength and many possibilities. So, if you are looking for a man who is real and who will be by your side through the bad as well as the good times, then either write or call - *Stefano, 211 Shannon Street, Gaston, SC 29053-9136, ph (803) 791 1637* - and let's see what happens.

**TEXAS.** GWM 53, 5'8", 150#, abled, HIV-, not turned on by disability but not turned off either, especially by types I've known. High school classmate was paraplegic, fellow worker in college had

ADS

PA-TX



ADS

TX

cerebral palsy, father was amputee, and good friend in grad. school had to have colostomy - plus some others! I have many interests ranging from railroading to impressionist art. Penpals to relationship, whatever... *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #828.*

**SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME?** Let's talk first. I'm just a regular guy, missing a part. Left B/K. But with my limb and long pants on, people just don't realize there's a replacement part there. In my mid 40's, but look 30's. (Yeah, right). No, for real! 5'11". Blue. Blond. HIV-. Don't smoke. Socially drink. Cleanshaven with light dusting of body hair. Average. (Everywhere). But my passions are deep. What are they? Music (everything but country). Movies and theater (maybe there's an escapist deep inside). Cars (sleek, fast and fun to drive). Skiing (on snow). Working out (pseudo jock stuff!). Flying (in airplanes - and it's a good thing, since I do it so much). Antiques and collectibles (furniture and porcelains... not people). My life is rich with friends, travel and experiences. What's missing is somebody to really talk with - somebody who's gay or bi and knows the difference between A/E, B/E, B/K and A/K! Somebody who shares those unique kinships. Somebody to trade stories with - *both* laughs and cries (laughs first!). Maybe there's a relationship there, maybe not. But finding out could really be wonderful! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #721.*

**TEXAS.** GWM 48, brown/hazel, 5'1", 133 lbs, HIV neg. I am looking for friendship or possible relationship. I'm handsome and fit. I have scoliosis (spine curves to right) and an underdeveloped left shoulder from old polio, also slight asthma. I'm a community college professor in Spanish. I like old rock, big band, jazz, classical music, cooking, astrology, museums, art exhibits, UFO stuff, *Unsolved Mysteries*, *X Files*, antiques, bookstores, conversation over tea, cuddling (a lot), playing monopoly and scrabble for blood, old black and white movies. Please, first be a drug free non-smoker, then: irreverent, sensitive, fun, fit within your ability, not afraid to try things you haven't, a polio survivor, an amputee, or even physically normal, HIV neg. Write to A-T box (photo appreciated) or call William Roberts, ph. (512) 385 8313. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #956.*

**TEXAS NORTH EAST.** GWM, 56, 5'10", 165#, blond hair, blue eyes, glasses, nice-looking, disease-free, gym-going in good shape former forrester/logger living in a small country town; masculine, sincere, affectionate and very sexual; I enjoy fishing, hunting, camping, gardening and more. I am seeking a one-on-one relationship with a younger man, attractive, slender/trim, clean, intelligent, disease-free, affectionate, loyal honest and very sexual, a guy who is honestly looking for an older man. My limitations are a congenital visual problem, which impairs my ability to drive in and travel to cities, but not much else; also a work-related back injury which prevents me from doing heavy lifting. I am open to the possibility of relocation. *J. D., POB 221, Royse City, TX 75189.*



ADS

TX-VT

**TEXAS.** Honest, shy WM 44 years old, 5'6", 138 pounds, blond (balding), hazel eyes (glasses), clean-shaven with mustache, little body hair, HIV-. I am on SSDI and have a lot of free time and would be interested in a rewarding correspondence with someone. I am gay in heart, body and mind. I like the outdoors, am home-loving, have a sense of humor, am a down-to-earth person. I like easy music and videos. No drugs, light smoker and drinker. At present I am looking for a relationship with a person older than myself who is also gentle and warm-hearted and with a good sex drive. I will answer all *Boxholder*, POB 2733, Dallas, TX 75221-2733.

**UTAH.** I would like a HIV-positive penpal with whom to share experiences and feelings. Please write to *W. Garrard*, POB 1796, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-1796.

**VIRGINIA.** GWM, professional, 40, wishes to meet and/or correspond with amputees and other physically challenged people. *Michael Allen*, POB 19435, Alexandria, VA 22320.

**VIRGINIA.** My name is John Christopher Barrett. I have cerebral palsy and use a power chair for mobility. I am a white single gay male in my forties (but look younger), have black hair, dark brown eyes, am moderately hairy, 5'1", and weigh around 135 lbs. I am employed at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) as an Office Services Specialist at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Supported Employment. I usually work four days a week and am off on Fridays, unless I'm away on a business trip. I enjoy going to the gay bars/clubs, enjoy dining out, enjoy dancing, enjoy going to movies and concerts, enjoy most types of music, and enjoy shopping. Cruising is my favorite pastime. I also like some sports, especially Ice Hockey and beach Volleyball. I like the beach as well as the mountains, nature, animals, and just life itself! Also I enjoy the nudist lifestyle when I'm home. I'm out there and you're out there, so why not let's get together and see what happens. If you are interested in getting together for an initial date, please call me! I am hot and horny! *John Christopher Barrett*, 300 West Franklin Street, #103-W, Richmond, VA 23220, telephone # (804) 643 1410 after 5pm or at weekends.

**VIRGINIA.** GWM, 53, 5'8" 150#, brown/blue; diagnosis-MS (still not definite); symptoms-walking difficulty, bladder and sexual dysfunction; personal interests-history, movies, trains, gay male erotica. Plan to relocate to Cleveland in a few years and I am especially interested in hearing from A-T subscribers in NE Ohio. *Mike Arian*, 1215 N Fort Myer Drive # 708, Arlington, VA 22209, telephone: (703) 524 0612.

**VERMONT.** Disabled-aware abled mature GWM, turned on to that special gay guy who would like a safe monogamous but adventurous sexual relationship. I have a small country house and a



ADS

VT - WA

life to share with that special, different lover who likes dogs, cats and maybe some real farm animals. I am on a search for mystical Truth, not in terms of a theological position, but as the Unity of all life. Sounds scary? Let me hear from you and let's search together and start with discovering each other, that will be exciting not scary! I am 5'11", 150#, brown hair - but very thin on top, trimmed gray beard, a few aches and pains but nothing serious. I get along happily with not much money. I work very lightly at my antiques business, and would welcome an interested guy to work with. Be any age, color, ethnicity, preferably a non-smoker. Photo appreciated if you write. *Richard Phelps, RR #1 - Box 710, East Dorset, VT 05253-9708.*

**LET'S HIT THE WOODS CAMPING.** GWM 31, seeking friends for fun and possible relationship. I'm 5'6", 180#, br/br, 'stache and goatee; after a badly broken leg I have a permanent limp and walk with a cane. I am a licensed nurse's aide and very disabled-aware. You are likely to be 30's, honest, caring, HIV-, monogamous, enjoy country living, able to relocate, no drugs or bars, ability/disability unimportant. I will answer all who write (with photo if you can). *Joe, POB 283, Rutland, VT 05702-0283.*

**TACOMA, WASHINGTON AREA.** 67, healthy man, large body, with a lot of love, care and consideration for the right person. I can be a real help to someone who needs a little TLC or whatever. Long term friendship desirable. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #704.*

**NORTHWEST U.S.** Retired male, 6'2", 180 lbs, enjoy gardening, hiking, traveling, corresponding. Am a railroad buff. Would like to meet others with like interests. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #749.*

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST.** Single white male, 5'11", 180 lbs, 55 years old, abled, have car and full-time job, seeking male disabled or abled living not too distantly. As I spend time in Bremerton, Tacoma and Seattle I am hoping to hear from someone living in western Washington state, but I am also open to hearing from those in Oregon and BC Canada. Write to *Rod Carter, POB 527, Manchester, WA 98353-0527.*

**SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE.** I know there is a great guy out there looking for someone special! I'm *not* looking for Mr. Right Away but I am interested in connecting with someone who is good to himself and those that he holds dear. My last relationship was with a partner of eleven years. Three years have passed and I know I'm ready and able to date again. This GWM is 38 yo, 165 lbs, 6'2", brown hair, blue/green eyes. I have two different types of muscular dystrophy. I can't even pronounce it but I have had the disability all my life. It has provided a few challenges but nothing I can't overcome. I work in the computer field and have traveled over 12,000 miles in the last three months with my new job. What preferences do I have? GWM, 25-48,



height/weight proportionate, smooth or lightly hairy, with a good sense of humor. It doesn't matter if you have a disability, small stature, small cock, or what type of job you have as long as you are happy with what you do. I use an electric wheelchair to get around but work out at the college, travel, theater, dining out, concerts, computers, etc. Give me a call, I would love to talk to you. *Dan, ph: (206) 323 6969.*

**WASHINGTON.** Able-bodied GWM wants to correspond with GM with disability; am familiar with blindness, so tapes ok. *Replies with correct postage to A-T #549.*

**WEST VIRGINIA.** Able-bodied GWM, 23, 6', 195lbs, in search of amputee or paraplegic GWM for friendship and possible long-term relationship. I am a good-looking, intelligent recent college graduate interested in adventurous travel, scuba diving and disabled sports who is searching for someone to share my life with. Must be well-adjusted, HIV negative and relatively masculine. Please send letter and mailing address along with telephone number and a photo if you have one. I will answer all responses. Also, anyone interested in attending the Paralympic Games with me in Atlanta, GA on August 16th-27th, please respond! *Alexander Jones, POB C-254, Concord College, Athens, WV 24712.*

### INTERNATIONAL

**AUSTRALIA.** GWM, 44, 6'2", 180#, able-bodied, professional guy working in strategic marketing and advertising, lived worked and studied in USA in 1976-77, loves Americans, attracted to physically challenged guys who love life and getting on with it. Get to USA about once a year, keen to correspond, talk to, meet guys who are amps, wheelies or wear braces. Don't let the tyranny of distance be another barrier! I love the outdoors, horses, surf, wining, dining, film, theater, reading, and mutually rewarding, non role playing safe sex. Why not write and claim your own live Aussie mate? *Ross Hepburn, 65 Finch Street, East Malvern, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3145.*

**AUSTRALIA.** GM, 44, 191cm tall, weigh almost 100kg, shoulder length reddish hair, beard. Work as HIV educator but photography is my passion. Much involved in Sydney gay community, supporting people with HIV, and as photographer for Mr. Drummer competitions. Mostly Baroque music, instrumental jazz, no C & W. I cook provincial French. Live alone in a c1900 flat 15 minutes from the center of Sydney (sorry 18 steps up, no wheelchair access). I am a smoker and occasional drinker. I lived with a lover who was blind for ten years and am sensitive to people who are different. I would really welcome visitors! My only restrictions are that you have to be self-sufficient during the day, while I am at work, and please contribute to food costs. Looking forward to planning your visit with you! *David Edwards, POB 95, Westgate, 2048 Australia.*

ADS

WA -  
INT'L



**ADS  
INT'L**

**CANADA, TORONTO.** GWM 38, abled, 5'6", well built husky, br/hazel, trim beard/stache, masculine, HIV neg. With a Franciscan spirituality I enjoy what life has to offer: friends, outdoor activities, travel, history, museums, cooking, dining out, quiet evenings, sunrises, sunsets, music, animals, etc. I am attracted to blue-collar appearances like workboots, hi-top running shoes and Levi 501's, to long hair and to tallness, also to men with leg braces or prostheses (esp. b/e hooks) - a previous friendship with a man who is an amputee was a very positive experience which I would like to repeat. I seek to develop and sustain real friendships with disabled men 18-42 years who live life to its fullest. Perhaps you are active in disabled sports, outdoor activities; above all you possess a strong self-awareness, have a realistic approach to life and are willing to invest in a face to face friendship. Penpals ok, all replies will be promptly answered, photo (returnable) and phone appreciated. Write soon, eh? *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #316.*

**ENGLAND.** Hi there! I'm an English GWM, 39, 6'2", 160lbs, seeking friendships and exchanges and hopefully an intimate relationship. I'm polio-disabled but fully mobile and independent. I'm straight-acting, masculine, caring, loving and affectionate; also unselfish, loyal and dependable. I'm into travel, music, socializing and much more. Am relaxed, easy-going and open-minded. I live on the south coast about 2 hours from London in a wheelchair-friendly bungalow and welcome houseguests. I also speak German and French and basic Spanish. Hope to hear from you real soon. Take care now. *Paul Williams, 4 Dawn Close, Ensburys Park, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH10 4BL, England. Ph# (UK) 1202-548669.*

**GREECE.** Greek male, 38 years old, architect, 80kg, 190cm, able bodied, brown hair and eyes. I am attracted to, and identify with amputees. Would like to get in touch with leg or arm amps, ages 25-55, from all over the world, as well as other guys with similar feelings. *George Kalyterakis, 32 Skoufa Street, Athens 10673, Greece.*

**MEN BEHIND BARS**

*In this section ABLE-TOGETHER publishes the personal contact ads of prisoners who are paid full-year subscribers to the newsletter; readers responding to a prisoner's personal contact ad do so entirely at your own risk and it is your responsibility to satisfy yourselves as to whether the connection is in any way likely to prove dangerous or unsafe.*

**WASHINGTON.** WM 28, 5'9", 170lbs, brn/bl, abled, honest, caring, looking for some ltr. I'm doing time in Washington State Penitentiary, but getting out soon, and I want to relocate to the San Francisco area. I'm muscular, healthy and marriage minded. I will answer all replies! *Brian Payseno #906041, Washington State Penitentiary (IMU-D-6), POB 520, Walla Walla, WA 99362.*



# ABLE-TOGETHER BULLETIN BOARD

THERE IS A SUPPORT GROUP  
FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN WITH  
DISABILITIES AT

THE INDEPENDENT LIVING  
RESOURCE CENTER,  
70 TENTH STREET,  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103.

THE GROUP MEETS FRIDAYS  
BETWEEN 11.30 AND 1.00.

CALL HERB LEVINE AT  
(415) 863 0581 FIRST FOR DETAILS

## AMPUTEE SUPPORT GROUP FOR GAY MEN

meeting in San Francisco, California

is organizing to affirm ourselves by dealing with issues  
including self-love, appearance, dating, revealing the non-visually-  
apparent disability to abled men, and rejection.

for information call (415) 255 3049

## DELAWARE, MARYLAND, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA

A support group and organization is now forming for  
gay, lesbian and bisexual persons with disabilities.

*For additional information please write to:*  
GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITIES,  
352 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, #A-6,  
AMBLER, PA 19002-4341

*or call (215) 540 0189 before 10 pm eastern standard time.*



# **ABLE-TOGETHER**

## **SUBSCRIPTION AND PERSONAL CONTACT AD INFORMATION**

ABLE-TOGETHER has a single-issue cover price of \$5. The cost for a full year's postal subscription of four issues is \$30; this is reduced to \$15 for persons with low income.

ABLE-TOGETHER full-year subscribers *ONLY* may request publication of their personal contact ads at no additional cost. Ads can be box #-coded for privacy. ABLE-TOGETHER reserves the right to edit personal contact ads for length and content.

When you become a full-year subscriber to ABLE-TOGETHER, your subscription will start with the most current issue. You may send the personal contact ad request form with your subscription form or at a later date.

**IF YOU WISH TO BECOME A FULL-YEAR SUBSCRIBER  
PLEASE COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM AND  
THE AD REQUEST FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE  
AND SEND THEM TO:**

**ABLE-TOGETHER  
POB 460053  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94146**

**REMEMBER,  
IF YOU NEED LONGER TO WRITE YOUR PERSONAL  
CONTACT AD YOU MAY SEND US YOUR SUBSCRIPTION  
FORM NOW AND YOUR PERSONAL CONTACT AD  
REQUEST FORM AT A LATER DATE.**



# PERSONAL CONTACT AD REQUEST FORM

SUBSCRIBER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my personal contact ad to be: \_\_\_\_\_ box #-coded  
\_\_\_\_\_ uncoded

*(We recommend box #-coded ads unless you have a Post office box address.)*

The text of my ad is as follows:

*(Please include name, address and phone number as you want it to appear in the ad.  
Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the amount enclosed *(includes a personal contact ad):*

\$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 low income \_\_\_\_\_



ABLE-TOGETHER is published and mailed to subscribers at the end of the months of January, April, July and October. It is also available for purchase at certain gay/progressive bookstores across the US and on audio tape to subscribers with visual impairment.

ABLE-TOGETHER caters to the needs and interests of disabled and disability-aware abled men within the bisexual/gay communities. Subscribers to A-T are encouraged to contribute letters, opinions and articles.

ABLE-TOGETHER is news: A-T has been written up in *New Mobility* and in the newsletters of the **American Association of Physicians for Human Rights** and the **Boston Information Center for Individuals with Disabilities**; as well as in local gay newspapers such as the *San Francisco Bay Area Reporter*. A-T is also politics and history and our subscribers include the **World Institute on Disability** in Oakland, California, the **Homodok Archives** in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and the **Gay and Lesbian Historical Society** in San Francisco.

ABLE-TOGETHER applies subscription, sales and donation revenues to production, advertising and outreach costs. A-T's outreach program includes sending informational materials to independent living centers and distributing flyers to disabled students' programs and gay and lesbian students' associations of colleges in the US and Canada. A-T advertises regionally, in gay newspapers throughout the United States, and nationally, in *New Mobility*, *Advocate Classifieds* and the *Disability Rag*. A-T welcomes suggestions from subscribers on outreach policy.



ABLE-TOGETHER's voice-mail telephone number is your line to us, whether you have a specific question or, by generating personal contact, just to get a better feel of what A-T is about.

*Keep in touch with us on (415) 522 9091!*

**ABLE-TOGETHER**  
**POB 460053**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**  
**94146**